

REGULAR EVENTS

Friday, General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross Bldg.,
 Sep 5 700 S. 3rd. (1st Friday of each month.)
 Monday, Board Meeting, 6:00 PM, Glas-Col., 7th &
 Sep 8 Hulman (Monday following the Gen. Mtg.)
 Every The Club Station is open, 7:00 - 9:00 PM,
 Thursday Downstairs, Red Cross Bldg., 700 S. 3rd.

SPECIAL EVENTS

N9FMD, WA9DRO take new positions Sep. 1, 15
 New Technician class, Rose-Hulman Ventures... Sep. 2
 Family Learning Day Sep. 27
 Deuces Wild Duathlon, Lincoln Trail, St. Pk. Oct. 11



THE

BANDSPREAD

SEPTEMBER 2003



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

N9FMD IS NEW VIGO COUNTY E.C.

As of September 1, Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD, will assume the duties of Vigo County Emergency Coordinator (E.C.).

Dave brings to the position experience as a former Vigo County Emergency Coordinator (E.C.) and then District Emergency Coordinator (D.E.C.) under then Section (state) Emergency Coordinator, Jim Sellers, K9ZBM. He also brings to the position a working relationship with many of the community's leaders and is therefore able to easily gain their attention and confidence.

The position has been officially vacant since the elevation of Dave, N9YNF, to the position of S.E.C. a year or so ago when Jim was elected Indiana Section Manager.

This means that the Club has the distinct privilege of counting both the County E.C. and the State S.E.C. among its members.

We are pleased that the position is now filled and wish Dave well and extend him our support in his new position.

2003 Fall Technician Class Begins Sep. 2nd

The 2003 edition of the Fall Technician class begins Tuesday, September 2, the day after Labor Day. The class will again begin at 6:30 PM, for those interested in learning Morse Code and from 7 - 9PM, we will provide the theory instruction. Please note, the Textbook edition is new this year. It's Now You're Talking again, but it is the 5th Edition! Also different is the location. This year we will meet at Rose Hulman Ventures. RHV is NOT on campus. It is on Indiana 46, about 3/4 of a mile south of I-70; turn east on Moyer Road.

Tuition again this year will be \$20 which includes the textbook. It does NOT include the code CD. However the CD will be available for order at the first meeting.

Please "beat the bushes" for anyone you know who has expressed a serious interest in attaining his or her license. This person should be advised, however, that there will be a class every Tuesday night until the testing session on Sunday, December 7, at the Red Cross. They should understand that without question, the one single most important step to success is REGULAR

ATTENDANCE, followed closely by doing the homework assignments, of course. If you know of any prospects, please contact me at 877-4371 or k9ere@earthlink.net. This is not mandatory, but it helps us prepare for the class. TNX.

Gary, K9ERE
 Education Committee Coordinator

September 5 Program is LIVE LINE DEMO!

If you've never seen it, don't miss it! It's at the regular time, but the location was not set at press time. Check the nets and listserv and pass it on! Ed.

Family Learning Day is September 27

This year's edition of Family Learning Day will again see Dave, N9YNF, at the Vigo Co. Public Library parking lot with the ARES trailer.

It's really good P.R. for Amateur Radio so if you have nothing else planned, why not stop by and give Dave some support.

Natalie, K9CAT, Tribute

Because of the timing of her passing, we didn't have time to put together as much as intended in the Summer issue. Page 7 of this issue begins a series of articles and pictures about Natalie.

NETS

146.685*
K9IKQ/R

Sunday Morning ARES Net	8:20 am EST
Sunday Evening WVARA Net*	9:00 pm EST

* First Sunday of the month is Simplex night. The WVARA Net meets on 146.595



Ed. Note: There are no official general meetings in July and August so there are no minutes.

Board Meeting Minutes 07/07/03

President Kevin Berlin, K9HX, called the July meeting of the WVARA Board to order at 6:29 PM on July 07, 2003. Club members in attendance were Vice President Gary Adams, W9EEU; Trustee Ray Andrews, K9DUR; Treasurer, Don Pine, K9DRP; Board Member at Large Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD; Station Manager Jay Sotak, AB9CG; and Natalie Andrews, K9CAT. Secretary Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR, and Past President Steve Shorter, NT9T, were not able to attend due to a family emergency. Don, K9DRP, agreed to record the minutes of the meeting. Secretary's Report: The SECRETARY'S REPORT was not available because of the Secretary's absence due to emergency. TREASURER'S REPORT: Don, K9DRP, distributed copies of the previous month's financial activity for review. The report indicated a total balance of \$3,048.69 in all accounts. Don moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as distributed with a second by Kevin, K9HX. The motion to approve the report carried. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Kevin, K9HX, reported that the Kenwood TS-690 donated to the club checked out fine with a power output of 98 watts on 80 through 10 meters. He indicated a power cord would be needed to place the radio into operation. Kevin also expressed his thanks for the surprise card shower that took place during the repeater frequency change workshop on July 5, 2003. Club members presented Kevin with cards to express their gratitude for the many hours he spends in maintaining the repeaters and Club equipment. The September Meeting of the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association will be held on September 05, 2003 at 7:29 PM at the Wabash Valley Red Cross Building in Terre Haute. OLD BUSINESS: Meeting Schedule: It was discussed that a possible change in location may be pertinent for the September General Meeting due to the "Live Line Demo" slated for the meeting program. It was agreed that any change be discussed at the August Board meeting. Field Day Critique: Kevin, K9HX, reported that a review of the Club's 2003 Field Day activity could be summed up as EXCELLENT. Issues discussed included a surprising lack of interference between stations, requirements for control operators, operator participation, and possible improvements for food handling in future Field Days. An "unofficial" Field Day menu was unanimously agreed upon to consist of a Friday evening set-up dinner, a Saturday dinner that must include bratwursts, and a Sunday omelet brunch. A need for two additional G5RV antennas and the retirement/replacement of the beam was also discussed. It was decided to present these ideas to the membership for possible "group build" projects. Dave, N9FMD, challenged next year's Field Day coordinator to "top this one." Repeater Issues: Kevin, K9HX, reported the frequency change of the K9IKQ repeater to the new frequency (146.685) was complete. Reports from many stations indicate all is well. The current announcement tape will be used for an additional two weeks. The APRS digipeater has been tuned up to an output of 25 watts. However, there seems to be a problem with the battery and the machine is currently running off of another power supply provided at the site. Generator repairs: No additional action to report. Club station repairs: The rotor has been repaired and a new control cable has been installed at the club station. Vigo County CD generator: The club has taken possession of the donated generator, although

paper work for the transfer still needs to be completed. The generator is currently parked at Dave's, N9YNF, residence. The club agreed to remove the unit from Dave's driveway within a couple of week's. Don, K9DRP, suggested that Chuck, KC9BBJ, be contacted to assess the condition of the generator and to do a feasibility study for bringing the machine into the desired operating condition. Tailgate Party: Board members and any other volunteers will meet at 6:00 AM to set up for the July 19 event. Don, K9DRP, will make arrangements with the Bingo Hall to confirm the start time. Club Picnic: Gary, K9ERE, and Pat, KA9ALI will host The Annual Club Picnic. Swimming will start at 4:30 PM with the meal scheduled for 6:00 PM. Skywarn Seminar: Illiana Skywarn will host a workshop for net control operators on July 26th at 9:00 AM at the WMGI studios (south of the Red Cross) in Terre Haute. Fall Tech Class: Jay, AB9CG, reported that Rose Hulman Ventures has offered to provide classroom space for the fall class. The possibility of the Club maintaining a supply of NOW YOU'RE TALKING was discussed since Radio Shack will no longer stock these manuals. Sunday Net Format: A sample of a new preamble was reviewed for the WVARA Sunday Night Net. Changes to the format were agreed upon and the new preamble will be distributed to net controllers. Contributions: It was noted that the Club did not make any contribution to the World Gospel Church for use of the facility in hosting this year's Brentlinger Dinner. Kevin, K9HX, will contact Dave, N9YNF, to determine an appropriate amount. A motion was made by Ray, K9DUR, and seconded by Dave, N9FMD, to authorize the Treasurer to make payment of \$25.00 to QTH.Net as a donation for hosting the Club's listserver. NEW BUSINESS: Equipment Insurance: The Club has received its annual premium notice from Marsh Affinity Group Services for the equipment insurance plan. Ray, K9DUR, will compile a list of equipment to update the policy coverage. MARS participation: Jay, AB9CG, presented the possibility of the Club station becoming a member of the MARS program. As station manager Jay indicated he could perform the necessary paperwork involved to implement the program. It was decided that the idea would be put forth to the general membership for individual interest in joining the program. Christmas Party: Gary, W9EEU, will contact possible caterers to determine the feasibility of holding the annual Christmas Party at the World Gospel Church. A motion to adjourn was made by Ray, K9DUR, and seconded by Kevin, K9HX, to adjourn at 8:47 PM. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted, Don Pine, K9DRP

Reports on New Rigs We've Bought

Have you just acquired a new rig recently. Do you like it? Dislike it? This is a "call for papers" on the subject of your new rig. Everyone buys a particular rig for a reason. After you've had it a while you may realize you are glad you did or maybe you wish you hadn't.

We'd like to hear about it and what you think of it. Maybe you can reveal a thing or two that most people don't know about this rig before they buy. Perhaps you can help someone make up his or her mind. So we invite you to write a paragraph or five about it and send it in to help the rest of us.

Please see the article on p. 9 regarding submission of articles for directions on how to proceed.

TNX, -Ed.

Board Meeting Minutes 08/11/03

The August meeting of the WVARA Board was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Club President Kevin Berlen, K9HX. Also present were: Vice President, Gary Adams, W9EEU; Treasurer Don Pine, K9DRP; Secretary Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR; and Board Member at Large Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD. Guests present were Gary Wheeler, K9ERE, and Jay Sotak, AB9CG. There were no announcements. The Secretary's Report was distributed by Don, K9DRP, who took the minutes in July due to the absence of Debbie, KC9AOR. A correction was made to the statement regarding the donated radio, which should have read Yaesu FT-990. Gary, W9EEU, moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Dave, N9FMD, seconded the motion which was approved. The Treasurer's Report was distributed by Don, K9DRP. He reported a balance in the bank of \$2,902.55 prior to sending a \$25 check to QTH.net today. The quarterly report was prepared for publication in *The Bandspread*. Dave, N9FMD, reported that he still has money to turn in from the sale of Field Day t-shirts. Don moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as distributed; Gary seconded the motion; the motion passed. OLD BUSINESS: (1) Repeater issues were presented by Kevin. He stated that there was not much new to report since the frequency change and coordination have taken place. He reported that Ray, K9DUR, plans to donate the new repeater controller which was discussed in previous meetings as an item we would like to have sometime in the future. He plans to donate it as a memorial to Natalie, K9CAT, as she had expressed a desire to purchase it for the Club. There was discussion regarding the Board's desire to have an engraved tag attached to the controller which would state that this is "in memory of Natalie Andrews, K9CAT." Miscellaneous repeater issues were discussed. Kevin reported that he has inspected the repeater and it is working fine. He discovered a problem with the battery and he is working to remedy the problem. (2) The Civil Defense generator has been picked up and is now at Chuck, KC9BBJ's residence. He reports that it runs well. The manual states that the generator uses 4 gallons per hour. It is a 3-phase generator with a total load of 52 amps per leg. There was discussion regarding the size of the unit, liability issues and expense of operation. It was decided that the Board should postpone further discussion of the use of the Generator pending Kevin's review of the paperwork from the Civil Defense. (3) Fall Technician Class: Classes are scheduled to begin September 2, 2003 at Rose Hulman Ventures. Jay, AB9CG reports that he has a supply of the "Now You're Talking" books available. There was discussion regarding the Club's purchase of books to have available for the beginning of the first class. Gary, K9ERE, will check to see if ARRL will allow us to order books on consignment prior to the classes and return those not needed. It was decided that we will keep one book available for sale, at list price, in the Club Station for potential new hams. When that book sells, we will order another one. It was recommended that at the end of the three-year cycle, we not restock the book for the Club Station. There was also discussion regarding donating a copy of "Now You're Talking" to the public library. (4) The Sunday night net format change was discussed. (5) A contribution to World Gospel Church for the Brentlinger Dinner was discussed. Dave moved and Debbie seconded the motion to send them a donation of \$30. The motion passed. Don will send that in this week. (6) The Christmas dinner location/schedule has not been confirmed. Kevin will check with Dave, N9YNF, to see if we can use the church again.

The ladies from Gary, W9EEU's church are willing to prepare the dinner if the church is available. The tentative date is December 6 (the first Saturday of December) beginning at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7. (7) Tailgate report - Don reported that there were 47 paid admissions. There was discussion regarding the decline in attendance over the past several years. Don suggested that we ask those on the listserv for suggestions for improvement - Kevin will do that. NEW BUSINESS: (1) Desk-top publishing program for *The Bandspread* - Gary, K9ERE. There was discussion regarding what is needed to facilitate the publishing of *The Bandspread*. Gary plans to purchase a new computer and would like assistance with the cost of a desktop publishing program; the benefits to a new program include it would make its own pdf files, the newsletter would be easier to put together and the quality of fonts and pictures would be much better. If provided the new software, Gary has agreed to publish *The Bandspread* for at least three more years. Gary will provide more information regarding pricing as soon as his research is complete. (2) Dave, N9FMD, suggested that he would like to develop a column for *The Bandspread* entitled "Dear Dr. Elmer." The column would provide a place for readers, especially new hams, to submit questions and receive a response. Dave would write the column with technical assistance from others as needed. (3) Don presented a fax from our insurance company which included a complete list of equipment to be insured. The list they have is seven years old so it's very outdated. The bill needs to be paid by the first of September. It was decided to pay the premium and submit a new list as soon as Ray, K9DUR, is able to complete it. (4) Jay, AB9CG, reported that he spoke with someone at the Strawberry Festival in June about their communication coordination needs. If the Club would be able to provide three or four people with hand-held radios to assist with their communication needs, it would be and great asset to the workers there and great publicity for amateur radio. The idea was well received and will be discussed again closer to the time of the event. (5) Dave, N9FMD, announced that he will become the Vigo County Emergency Coordinator effective September 1. (6) The September Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business, Debbie moved to adjourn the meeting; Gary, W9EEU, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. -Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR, Secretary.

The **Bandspread** is the official publication of the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. Organized around 1927, as a non-profit public service organization, it was affiliated with the ARRL on April 5, 1934.

Board Of Directors:

President	Kevin Berlen, K9HX
Vice-President	Gary Adams, W9EEU
Secretary	Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR
Treasurer	Don Pine, K9DRP
Trustee	Ray Andrews K9DUR
Past President	Steve Shorter, KB9ROH
Member at Large	Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD

Bandspread Editor: Gary Wheeler, K9ERE

Bandspread Facilitator: Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD

Bandspread Circulation: Ray, K9DUR & Natalie, K9CAT, Andrews

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Or e-mail the Editor at: k9ere@earthlink.net

Or e-mail the Club at: w9uuu@arrrl.net

Or e-mail the Discussion Group at: wvara@mailman.qth.net

Also, see our web page at... <http://www.w9uuu.org>

Webmaster: David Pifer, N9YNF

The **Bandspread** is the official publication of the Wabash Valley

Treasurer's Report

	1/1/03	3/31/03	6/30/03	8/10/03
Accounts	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
Checking	1,029.80	1,104.05	1,051.55	928.54
Money Market	1,933.97	1,936.22	1,938.09	1,938.09
Petty Cash	15.64	35.37	60.92	35.92
Total of Accounts	2,979.41	3,075.64	3,050.56	2,902.55

A detail report of the past month's transactions (the September report will include the months of June, July and August) is also available for review at each monthly general meeting. Any WVARA member may request to review all financial transactions. Data will be made available upon request at the next scheduled WVARA Board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Pine, K9DRP

The President's Corner

Well, summer is nearly over and fall is on its way. I hope some of your summer antenna projects have been completed. If not there is sure to be a few good days left this fall to get the work done. Of course, we all know that antennas really don't work well unless they are put up in bad weather.

Our fall Technician class will be starting on September 2nd. We are changing locations for this year's class to Rose-Hulman Ventures. We will be teaching Morse code and Technician level theory. Those wanting to participate in the Morse code instruction should plan to be there at 6:30PM, and theory-only students should arrive at 7:00PM.

Cost per student is \$20 and includes a current copy of the ARRL publication "Now You're Talking." If you know of someone that wants to attend, please get in touch with Gary, K9ERE at 877-4371 or k9ere@earthlink.net.

If you are interested, you might stop past the W9UUU Club station and check out our latest addition. Paul and Sherry Ray donated a Yaesu FT-990 HF transceiver to the Club last year that had suffered some shipping damage and was in need of repair. Paul arranged for the necessary parts to be donated, and recently the rig has been repaired and put back on the air in the club shack. Jay, AB9CG, and Dan, N9WX, report that the rig is working well and they have enjoyed its addition to our Club station. The W9UUU club station is open most Thursday evenings from 7:00PM to 9:00PM.

Several recent events should serve to remind everyone of the need to be prepared for emergency situations. The power blackout in August that affected New York and parts of several other states is just the latest in a series of disasters that Amateur Radio operators have responded to this year. Having spare rigs, antennas and other equipment ready enables us to respond much more efficiently to these needs when they arise. Also, finding batteries for that dry cell back on your HT is much easier when the power is still on in your neighborhood. Maintaining the emergency power system for your home station is equally important. Remember to periodically check the water in your batteries and inspect the connections for signs of corrosion. These batteries often are "out of sight, out of mind" until we need to rely upon them.

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer, and I look forward to the fall season of Club activities and meetings getting started. I look forward to seeing you at our September meeting.

Until then 73,

Kevin, K9HX

Introducing the Ryves Hall Amateur Radio Club and Station

Ryves Hall Amateur Radio Club has a successful beginning. KC9EKW is where Every Kid Wins!

KC9EKW is a new call that many will begin to hear on the airwaves. The call belongs to the Ryves Hall Amateur Radio Club which is located in Ryves Hall Youth Center. Jim Edwards, KA9DIF, is the station trustee and director of the youth center. Plans began for the club with a class last November. Since that time two classes have been held with a total of ten licensed hams. Of the ten that were licensed, three were adults and seven were youth ranging in age from twelve to seventeen. In fact one entire family, the Kellers, walked into a Marshall testing session and walked away with their tickets.

Two grants have been obtained to build the new "Ham Shack." The grants were from the Rose Hulman Homework Hotline to increase interest in Math and Technology, and a SIG grant from Chances for Indiana Youth to combat substance abuse. With these two grants the new shack currently has a Kenwood TS-2000, an Astron 50 amp power supply, and four antennas. Several other used rigs and supplies have been donated by local hams. Items still being sought are a tower and rigs that can be given to newly licensed young people to help them get on the air at home.

Without the help of the WVARA and its members the new club would not have become a reality. With not only technical assistance but also elmering, many of our newly licensed youth have been able to put faces on many of our local hams even before they spoke with them on the air. Whether it was Dave, N9FMD, dropping by with his "curtain rod" antenna or Kevin, K9HX, or Chuck, KC9CKK, dropping by to drill holes, there has been a daily presence of amateur radio operators at Ryves Hall.

Ryves Hall Youth Center is a part of Catholic Charities of Terre Haute and is partially funded through the United Way of the Wabash Valley. The youth center has been in operation since 1982 and since January, 2003, there have been over 1200 different children receive services at the center. All programs are free of charge to any child walking through its doors. Most children coming to Ryves Hall come from lower-income families. Activities include Amateur Radio, tutoring, a computer lab, a library, meals, counseling, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, substance abuse prevention programs, basketball, arts and crafts, dances, Karaoke, and much more.

Although volunteers and donations are needed for every program there is currently a great need for "elmers" in the Amateur Radio program. Licensed hams are needed to provide one on one elmering to children. One half hour each week would help focus and motivate many children seeking their Amateur Radio license. Many newly licensed hams also need assistance in operating the club station. Elmers could demonstrate the HF bands, and teach proper operating procedures. The youth center could use elmers from Monday through Friday until 9:00pm.

Anyone wishing to donate to the club, or volunteer, can contact Jim Edwards, KA9DIF, at the center (235-1265) or his home (533-0070). Jim can also be contacted via radio most evenings.

- Jim Edwards, KA9DIF
Director, Ryves Hall Youth Center



Aaron at the mic.

An all-ham family TNX to Ryves Hall

From L to R: father, Brian, KC9EBZ; mother, Becky, KC9ECA; son, Aaron KC9ECB and daughter, Lindsey, KC9ECC.



Illiana Skywarn Coordinator, My Old Job

In the past four years as Skywarn Coordinator I have seen much activity and many changes, both in the number of volunteers, available technology and the scope of the organization.

As former volunteers either moved out of the area such as Eric, N9KDB, who was our direct link to Channel 2 radar, or others who have gone on to other interests in Amateur Radio, new volunteers have taken their places and are currently in the process of refining their skills while using the new communications and computer technologies we now have available to us.

Over the past three years, Internet access to more complex and quicker radar sites have enabled area Skywarn nets to more quickly analyze pending weather situations and prepare spotters sooner for what they might expect to encounter.

For the past year, Skywarn has been involved with increasing its scope and coverage of the area due primarily to the initiation of the 444.350 repeater link to Indianapolis, from Farmersburg. It makes it possible for many counties, both in east central Illinois and west central Indiana to gain access to the Central Indiana Skywarn net and the National Weather Service directly without wasting curcial time by having to relay information through one or more stations.

And of course The NWS, in it's yearly spotters' classes under Dave Tucek, KC9CNF, continually introduces us to new techniques for better evaluation of what we as spotters might see.

At the recent Skywarn net controls' seminar, we were extremely gratified to see a very large turnout of those who are either planning to become or are thinking seriously about becoming the "new blood" Skywarn NCS that is so greatly needed at this time.

So it is with the greatest of pleasure that I relinquish the coordinator's spot to arguably the most capable person ever to hold the position, Keith, WA9DRO. Keith brings to the coordinator's spot the benefit of many years as coordinator and a vast knowledge of the geography of the Illiana Skywarn area. He knows the people and has exciting ideas about how to handle the ever-increasing responsibility of Skywarn to the Wabash Valley community as well as the NWS.

Congratulations, Keith!

- Gary, K9ERE

Illiana Skywarn Coordinator, My New Job

First of all, I want to thank Gary Wheeler, K9ERE, for accepting the job of Illiana Skywarn coordinator during the 2000 storm season. I was on the road way too much in 2000. I asked Gary to take the job that I had held for some years and without a moment's hesitation, he did so. Gary has kept Illiana Skywarn afloat in the face of increasing pressure and a mounting workload.

For all of the hours and all of the sleepless nights you gave, Gary, thank you!

Now, what's in the future? I envision the future as being much like the past. Throughout the past fifteen years we have built the largest reporting Skywarn net system in the state. Who can know how many lives have been saved because our spotters saw something ugly coming this way, gave the information to a net control station and the net control station passed it to The National Weather Service and or local media outlets?

If we could use two words to characterize the future, they would be, expansion and inclusion. We need to expand our systems to include everyone who will be a part of this growing organization in order to do this job in the most professional way possible.

Please plan to be a part of it all.

The best is truly yet to come.

73,

Keith, WA9DRO

Illiana Skywarn Coordinator

Ask Dr. Elmer!

Next month we begin a series called "Ask Dr. Elmer." In this series we will attempt to address issues and problems that confront newly-licensed hams. Some of these issues and/or problems also confront those of us who have been hams for many years as well. The success of this series will depend on you, the reader.

We invite any new ham to submit questions for Dr. Elmer to address. You may include your name or not. It's entirely up to you. If your name is not at the end of the question, we will not put it in, even though we may know who you are. As always, the set of rules for submitting any article holds. See "How to Submit Articles," p. 9

On the following pages are some pictures and reminiscences of a few people who knew Natalie well and who have volunteered their thoughts. If there are others who would like to contribute, please send your thoughts along for the next issue. Ed.



Where do I even begin? A very special person has left a huge empty space in the lives of many of us.

I first met Natalie, K9CAT, at a WVARA club meeting in 1996. I remember being glad that there was another woman there who was also a ham and especially when I discovered that she was active in the public service aspects of the hobby -- one of my main interests. As I became involved with more activities, she was always there, too, often taking care of some aspects of the event behind the scenes, assuring that all would run smoothly.

At some time in those earlier years, Natalie first brought up the subject of the YLRL (Young Ladies' Radio League) and started encouraging the rest of us YLs to join the national organization and form a local chapter with the idea of getting local women hams more involved with amateur radio activities. She kept after us and that finally became a reality not too long ago as CAARLA was born and affiliated with the national group. She was our first president -- there was no way we would have settled for a "no" on that!

She kept encouraging Debbie, KC9AOR, to get her license. She pushed and prodded relentlessly in her own way and Debbie went after her license and of course succeeded for which Debbie and all the rest of us are very grateful. I remember her encouraging me to keep trying for my general, and later extra, too.

Then several years ago her battle with cancer began. Through all the ups and downs she never lost heart, and never ceased putting other friends, and even strangers first. She let me know in no uncertain terms that I should have called her the night I had to be taken to the hospital at 2 AM -- she was going through radiation and another round of chemotherapy at the time. She won the LAMB award for her volunteer work with the Red Cross. Many of those calls came in the wee hours and required going to a fire scene, helping provide for the victims and firefighters needs. This too was during her ongoing personal battle. Even in those last weeks, she was on the radio, offering to forward messages for those of us trying to contact someone when we did not succeed.

She was selected as this year's recipient together with Ray, K9DUR, of the Brentlinger Award and no one could have deserved it more. Now we all need to carry on in her spirit. I have a feeling that would please her very much. I, as all of us, will miss her tremendously. She was my cat's very favorite human and beloved by all my dogs who were always delighted to see her and Ray.

Our CAARLA (Crossroads of America Amateur Radio Ladies Association) will regroup and do our best to keep Natalie's dream alive and growing. Thank you Natalie.

Kay Brentlinger, KB9HYH



It was with a very heavy heart that I had to inform Chapter staff, Board members, and volunteers of Natalie's passing. We lost a very dear member of our Red Cross family. We will all remember Natalie's strength, determination, sense of humor, and concern for others. The collage of pictures hanging in the Chapter's entryway of Natalie's much deserved Greater Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce John K. Lamb award in 2000, now takes on a new meaning. She set a very high bar of humanitarianism for all of us to match. We will all miss her terribly, but can take comfort in the fact that we had the joyous opportunity to know her.

Carol Stevens

Executive Director, American Red Cross of the Wabash Valley



Although I did not know Natalie as well as did many in the WVARA, perhaps I knew her the longest. Our paths first crossed in the early 1970's when both of us were regular participants in an ecumenical prayer group that met at St. Joseph Catholic Church every Sunday night. We didn't meet again until Natalie and Ray came to their first WVARA meeting at Rose-Hulman, around 1997. Natalie had to remind me of why it was that we looked so familiar to one another.

Over the years I developed great admiration for the dedication that both she and Ray had to their many activities, especially being willing to help anyone, anytime that they could be of service. My admiration deepened as we all watched her courage and spirit in truly living every day of her life with seeming disregard for her growing physical limitations. I may have forgotten where I first met Natalie all those years ago, but her memory will live on with all who knew her. If amateur radio groups have guardian angels, we now have ours and her name is Natalie.

Diane Brentlinger, KB9PAV

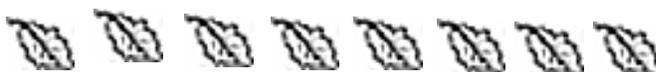


I first met Natalie, K9CAT, at the Executive Board Meeting of the WVARA right after I became a ham. There seemed to be an immediate kindling of friendship and camaraderie. This developed over the spring and summer of 1998 and I took the opportunity of the Club picnic to introduce her and Ray to my wife. They clicked and, as we would often go for coffee after the Club meeting, I invited Debbie to join us. This soon led to a conspiracy on the part of Natalie and myself to convince Debbie to get her ticket. In the end, it took four years, but Natalie never gave up. She just kept gently encouraging and prodding. After the test session on the ship, I think Natalie was even more excited than Debbie and I. Even better, when we returned home and Debbie finally received her call, Natalie had her on the radio before she could object; she continued to encourage her until she lived up to the phonetics "always on the radio."

That was Natalie - always helping someone else and doing whatever it took to develop new hams, especially YLs. I feel as if I have lost a sister, but I know that Natalie would expect us to go on and to continue to bring the hobby to new people and to use the hobby to be of service to the community.

Thank you Natalie for giving us a fine example.

Steve Shorter, NT9T



The Emergency Services Department of the Wabash Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross lost a very dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer. Natalie Andrews never put herself first. The families who suffered the loss of their home were always the priority.

I remember one particular night several years ago, after Natalie had been released from the hospital following surgery, the call came that the Sullivan county fire department was battling a major fire, they were requesting hydration and food. Instead of staying in bed, like most people, Natalie answered the call. Natalie put her own suffering on hold to assist others.

One Christmas Eve, when most people are celebrating with family, Natalie again answered the call for an apartment fire. Most people would be annoyed at the interruption. Not Natalie. Natalie met with the families to help with their immediate needs of clothing, food and temporary shelter. Natalie did not stop with the normal services of the American Red Cross. The families had young children. She could not allow those children to wake up Christmas morning with no packages to unwrap. Natalie made several phone calls and located some toys. She took the toys home, wrapped them, and delivered them to the families before the children awakened. Natalie requested to be on call at Christmas time the next two years.

Do I need to say any more? Natalie was one of the most dedicated volunteers I have known. Natalie was a very brave lady during her illness. She never let her illness get her down. Natalie was a true optimist. She was my hero!!! I will miss her.

Bonnie Lu
Director of Emergency Services
Wabash Valley Chapter, American Red Cross

I first met Natalie several years ago when I was a member of Civil Air Patrol. Natalie and her first husband Don had joined our local unit and immediately made their presence known. Natalie quickly took on the job of unit admin officer, the one job no one else wanted. She quickly and efficiently went to work and soon had all of the unit's paperwork caught up and in good order.

I also had the opportunity to work with her on several CAP missions. On one memorable occasion, we were tracking an emergency locator transmitter that had been activated somewhere in the Bloomington area. With Natalie's help, we tracked the signal to a home on Monroe Reservoir. Natalie made the call to the local law enforcement agency, and once they arrived, we entered the home and silenced the transmitter. This was a story that she frequently enjoyed telling.

As an amateur radio operator, Natalie displayed the same traits. She would just quietly dig in and do what was necessary to get the job done. She did not seek the spotlight, but because of her determination and dedication to her hobby she frequently found herself basking in its glow.

Natalie was one of the most caring and compassionate people I have ever had the privilege to know. She has left behind a legacy that will live on for many years.

Kevin Berlen, K9HX

The oak leaves signify tenacity, as they are the last leaves to fall. The green signifies that Natalie still lives in our hearts and our memories.

Like many of us, I met Natalie as she and Ray became active in the WVARA. I worked with Natalie when she was secretary and I was editor of The Bandspread.

They were always there, no matter what the event, lending a hand, going that extra mile.

On Field Day weekends, I quickly realized that she would put out food for all of us for every meal, not just Friday and Saturday nights.

And late on Saturday night, when I would go home exhausted, they were still there. And Sunday morning, when I returned, she and Ray were already there.

It seemed that they were always mobile, either going here or there to help someone do this or that.

Natalie often reminded me of the poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay.

My candle burns at both ends
It will not last the night
But, ah, my foes and oh, my friends,
It gives a lovely light.

Gary Wheeler, K9ERE



Natalie, K9CAT, introduced herself to me at a WVARA picnic long before I even considered amateur radio as anything more than my husband's hobby. She (and others) encouraged me to "just do it" (get my license)! She told me, "If I can do it, anyone can!" (Yeah, right Nat!) Everytime I met her at an activity, she was excited about all the Club happenings and wanted me to become a part of them, which I finally did. Natalie always believed I could do anything. (Sorry Nat; that was you who could do anything you set your mind or heart to!) But she almost made me believe I could too - her faith and enthusiasm wouldn't accept less.

I came to know and love Natalie as my best friend and a "sister." She was truly a remarkable woman, although she would deny that statement! Throughout her illness, she maintained an optimism, faith, determination and spirit that made her a joy to be with and to love. She held onto life and truly lived each moment.

One of her many dreams was to form a YLRL group in the Wabash Valley. She felt that women amateurs needed a resource of their own - a time to get together and "see what we can become!" She was able to see that dream become a reality with the formation of CAARLA. I am proud to be a part of that dream and would like to see it grow and become a vital part of the ham community in Natalie's memory.

I thank Natalie for adding so much to my life.

33, Natalie.

Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR



How to submit articles for *THE BANDSPREAD*

The WVARA has a diverse and widespread membership. We exist all over the country, according to the membership list. There is a great fount of knowledge and experience out there that is just waiting to benefit the readership. Do you have an article that you would like to see in The Bandsread. If so, please send it, typed preferably, by snail mail to...

Bandsread Editor

PO Box 81

Terre Haute, IN 47808-0081

...or by e-mail in plain text preferably or MS Word, to k9ere@earthlink.net.

While the editor welcomes all articles, we reserve the right to reject articles which are in poor taste or which reflect negatively on someone. The editor also reserves the right to edit for space, spelling and typos. If any significant editing is ever necessary we'll call you to seek your permission. Therefore, please include your phone number and/or addresses in the message.

We look forward to receiving your contributions. - Ed.

Rev.Aug 03

WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2004

Please complete this form and include your dues with it. You may return this application in person or mail to:

WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 81
Terre Haute, IN 47808-0081

Name: _____ Call: _____ License Class _____ ARRL member?

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ - _____ E-mail address _____

Date of Birth (Mo/Dy/Yr) ____/____/____ / Year first licensed _____ Year of last renewal _____

ARES member? QCWA? RACES member? MARS member? New member?

Please describe any employment or other special skills that might benefit Amateur Radio.

If you are applying for a family membership, please list below, the licensed family members living at home, that you wish to include.

Name: _____ Call: _____ License Class _____ ARRL member?

Name: _____ Call: _____ License Class _____ ARRL member?

Name: _____ Call: _____ License Class _____ ARRL member?

Add \$5 per family member above to the Single rate below. To include ARRL membership, see QST for amount.

Dues options: Single (\$20) Family: ARRL membership Total pmt: \$ _____

Note: 1. Payments made Sept. - Dec. apply to membership for the following year; 2. ARRL also has a family membership program. See QST.

Deuces Wild Duathlon is October 11

We are asking you again this year to help provide communications for the Lincoln Trail Deuces Wild Duathlon. Wonder why they ask us back year after year? As the race director Amy Yargus puts it, "I don't know what I would do without you people."

This is a charity race with a 2.5-mile run and a 15-mile bike race, followed by another 2.5 mile run.

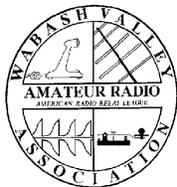
Every year we are given T-shirts and an excellent lunch. Our part will start at 7:30 AM on Oct. 11th as we get set up and positioned. We will relay information back to the start/finish line from various points in the race route. If needed we have a sag wagon to cart downed bikes/runners back to the start. They can also call for an ambulance, which will be on site, for participants who need emergency transport.

This is a rain or shine event. Most of us will be operating out of our vehicles but if you sign up to serve be ready for anything. It's good training for emergency operations and gives us all a chance to use our equipment for on-the-fly communication. We will be using voice 2-meter FM operation and APRS for tracking (Amy still thinks this is magic and wonders how its done without so much as a puff of magic smoke). We have always been done by noon and drive away with a great deal of satisfaction, a little more experience and a full stomach. We will need 20 people along the route at checkpoints and other spots which may need communications. Please sign up when we start taking names in mid September and remember that we will be counting on you to fill that position come October 11.

John Van Sandt,N9YRX

Clark County ARRL ARES Emergency Coordinator

THE BANDSPREAD - Official Publication of
The Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 81
Terre Haute, IN 47808-0081



SEPTEMBER 2003

2004= year; NL= Newsletter only;
COMP= Complimentary Membership;
LIFE=Life Membership If there is no symbol showing on your mailing label, this is a one-time complimentary copy of The Bandspread. If so, we invite you to fill out the enclosed membership form to join the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association.

VE Testing

TERRE HAUTE: 1st Sunday of even-numbered months

1 PM local time

Red Cross Bldg.

700 S. 3rd St.

Terre Haute, Indiana

Further information may be obtained from Steve Shorter, NT9T, Terre Haute, IN., at (812) 232-4788 or nt9t@arrl.net

MARSHALL: 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months

8:30 AM Illinois time

1st Christian Church

902 N. 6th Street

Marshall, IL 62441

- Walk-Ins Welcome -

For further information, contact:
John Van Sandt, N9YRX (217) 826-8821
Ray Andrews, K9DUR (812) 535-3222

Sep. 13 Marshall

Oct. 5 Terre Haute

