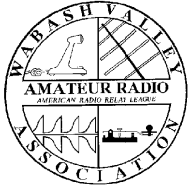


REGULAR EVENTS

Friday, General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross Bldg.,
Jan 2 700 S. 3rd. (1st Friday of each month.)
Monday, Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Glas-Col., 7th &
Jan 5 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

T.H.R.C Annual Meeting, see p. 5 Dec 27
2004 Budget Committee Mtg..... Jan 3
Brentlinger Award Deadline Jan 15
First Upgrade-to-General Class Feb 24



THE

BANDSPREAD

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

JANUARY 2004



HAMS HELP OTHERS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 13th was a memorable day for a number of hams and around 60 youngsters in the Wabash Valley. That was the day when, for the first time, children at the Honey Creek Mall could talk to "Santa" directly via Amateur Radio. Among Santa's helpers in the effort were John, N9YRX, who organized the effort and Chad, KC9BZG, who represented Mix-FM.

Meanwhile, four of Santa's elves, namely Debbie, KC9AOR, Dave, KC9EGN, Jay, AB9CG, and Doyle, KC9ENH, operated the Yaesu 897 at the Mall where the kids talked directly to "Santa."

Santa was represented by Kevin, K9HX, Steve, NT9T, and John, N9YRX, who were on the air from an undisclosed location, perhaps the North Pole.

Others who helped in a number of ways were Dave, N9YNF, Daniel, N9WX and Chuck, KC9CKK. If we left anyone out, we apologize. It was a major effort requiring lots of people. Well done, guys and gals. See the President's Corner for a list of participating organizations.

Two days before Christmas, children were clambering into Ryves Hall Youth Center. Not an unusual sight, but this time they were looking forward to seeing Santa Claus. For many years Ryves Hall has hosted an annual Christmas party serving hundreds of children. Each year the party grows. Sponsors such as the Wabash Valley Racers Christmas for Kids, Anderson Chiropractic, and many other businesses, churches and individuals see to it each child receives several new presents. This year over 275 children, and their parents, came to the center to see Santa, sing songs, receive toys, and celebrate Christmas.



A future ham? talks to Santa with the help of Debbie, KC9AOR



Chad, KC9BZG and Jaleel, who is currently working on his license.

The party was held in the upper gym. There, children could talk with Santa, sing songs, and listen to stories. During the party, groups of children were escorted downstairs via the elevator to the Cultural room where

Cont'd see **Ryves Hall**, p. 3



Tech Class Graduates

Out of the approximately eight students who originally signed up for the class, four kept their commitments and all four passed!

L-R Katie O'Connor, Charla Evinger, Nicole Long and Aaron Sebastian.

Congratulations to them all!

January Program

The Club meeting program is
Check Your Rig Night!

LOCAL NETS

Wednesday Evening	9:00 pm CST
Clark Co. ARES Net	146.535/S
Thursday Evening	9:00 pm EST
CAARLA Net	146.685/R
Sunday Morning	8:20 am EST
Vigo Co. ARES Net	146.685/R
Sunday Evening	9:00 pm EST
WVARA Net	146.685/R*

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



General Meeting Minutes 12/05/03

The December meeting of the WVARA was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Club President, Kevin Berlen, K9HX. Vice President Gary Adams, W9EEU, led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Announcements:** (1) Kevin announced that the Board Meeting will be held Monday December 8 at 6:30 p.m. Indiana time at Glas-Col Apparatus Co., 7th and Hulman. Anyone interested in attending is welcome but must call on 146.595 for talk-in. (2) VE testing will be held this Sunday at 1:00 p.m. at the Red Cross. (3) Dues for 2004 are now being accepted. They should be turned in to the Club Treasurer Don, K9DRP. (4) The annual WVARA Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 6, at World Gospel Church. The cost is \$14.00 per person. The QCWA and CAARLA will join us for the evening. The program for the evening will be provided by Gordon Pleuss on 911 emergency communications. The previously announced program provided by Ray, K9DUR, will be held at the Brentlinger Dinner. (5) The next meetings of the QCWA/CAARLA clubs will be held Saturday, December 13, at 12:30 at Ambrosini's Restaurant in Terre Haute. (6) Santa will be on the air to talk to kids at Honey Creek Mall also on Saturday, December 13, in conjunction with MIX-FM. Dave, N9YNF, will provide the radio for use at the mall. John, N9YRX, announced that he still needs assistance with 3rd party operators at the mall. The times of operation are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Anyone needing further information or wishing to volunteer to assist was encouraged to talk with John, N9YRX, after the meeting. (7) Jim, WD9EYB, announced that the Eastside Outdoor Ham Club will sponsor a Fox Hunt December 28. (8) Dave, N9FMD, announced that we plan to assist Ryves Hall with their annual Christmas dinner/party by providing communication assistance with HT's. A few helpers will be needed from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on December 23. (8) Gary, K9ERE, reported the results of the recent Technician Class. He reported that the class resulted in three new Technicians and one Technician who passed her code. Gary also announced plans for a General upgrade class in February or March through June. He thanked all those who assisted with the class instruction. (9) Ray, K9DUR, announced the passing of Natalie's mother and gave information regarding the service. (10) Kevin announced that the Club now has a total of four Life Members: Ray K9DUR, Karen KC9AGL and Terry KB9ZVA, join Keith W9DRO, as Life Members. There will be a plaque with the names of Life Members on display in the Club Station. **BUSINESS MEETING:** Club Secretary, Debbie, KC9AOR, moved that the **Secretary's Report** be approved as published in The Bandspread; Kay, KB9HYH, seconded the motion. The motion passed. Don, K9DRP, presented the **Treasurer's Report**. He reported a total balance on hand in all accounts of \$3,172.26. Don moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented; John, K9GBO, seconded the motion; the motion passed. There being no old business, Kevin proceeded to new business with the Election of Officers. Gary, K9ERE, as Chairman of

the Nominating Committee presented a slate of nominees: Kevin Berlen, K9HX for President; Gary Adams, W9EEU for Vice President; Don Pine, K9DRP for Treasurer; Ray Andrews, K9DUR for Trustee; Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR for Secretary. Gary then asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, he moved that the slate of officers be accepted and that nominations be closed. John, N9YRX, seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dave, N9FMD, moved to elect by acclamation the slate of officers as presented. Jay, AB9CG, seconded the motion. The motion passed. There being no other new business, Kevin announced that following an intermission, John, N9YRX, will present a **program** on Cross-Band Repeaters. Following the program, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR, Secretary.

Board Meeting Minutes MO/DY/YR

Club President Kevin Berlen, K9HX, called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M. Other Board members present were Trustee Ray Andrews, K9DUR; Treasurer Don Pine, K9DRP; Past President Steve Shorter, NT9T; Board Member at Large Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD; and Secretary Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR. Also present was Gary Wheeler, K9ERE. There being no announcements, Club Secretary Debbie moved that the **Secretary's Report** be approved as published in The Bandspread. Ray seconded the motion; the motion passed. The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Don. He reported a balance of \$3,188.36 in all accounts. Life memberships were discussed. It was decided that life membership receipts will be placed in a CD. Don noted that the expenses of the Christmas Dinner exceeded the income from it by \$59. Don moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. Steve seconded the motion; the motion was approved by the Board. **Old Business:** (1) Repeater issues: Kevin reported that the installation of the new controller is still to be scheduled. (2) Meeting schedule for 2004 was discussed. (3) The date for the Brentlinger Dinner was discussed; March 20 was selected as the tentative date. (4) Special Event: ideas were discussed for the celebration of WVARA's 70 years of affiliation with ARRL April 4th, 2004. The celebration will begin with the Club Meeting Friday, April 2, 2004, and will run through the following week-end. (5) Plans for "Santa on the Air from the Mall" with MIX-FM were discussed. Preparations are going well. (6) A list of Club station surplus equipment will be published in the February Bandspread. (7) Possibilities for an alternate Club meeting location were discussed. (8) A Spring General upgrade class was discussed. (9) Electronic Bandspread distribution was discussed. Those who receive The Bandspread electronically will not have a mailing label with a reminder to renew their memberships. Ray will send a reminder e-mail to those who receive it electronically. We need to continue promoting the benefits of electronic receipt in order to see a decrease of mailed copies by another 25% during the upcoming year.



(10) To be published in The Bandspread: January will have the Treasurer's Report; February will be the Budget; March will have the membership list; a list of Club inventory will be published in April. (11) Tailgate flyer - Steve suggested that we post an ad for the Tailgate Party with a map on the club's web site. Ray will work that out. (12) Club dues were discussed. It was decided that we need to promote the use of electronic distribution of the Bandspread in order to contain our cost to avoid dues increases. This will be revisited at the August Board meeting. **New Business:** (1) Dave presented his letter of resignation as Board Member at Large to Kevin. (2) Installation of new officers for 2004 (3) The 2004 Budget Committee will be Dave N9YNF, Don K9DRP, Steve NT9T and Kevin K9HX. They will meet the weekend of January 3 to prepare the budget for presentation to be voted on at the January Board meeting. (4) The Bandspread assignment board was discussed. There being no further business, Steve moved that the meeting be adjourned; Debbie seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. -Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR, Secretary.

Drive Time Net Meets During Winter Months

CQ CQ CQ all radio amateurs! The Drive Time Net, a service of the Otter Creek Repeater Group will start Monday December 15.

The drive time net is held Monday through Friday, from 4:15 PM until 5:30 PM Indiana time (3:15 PM to 4:30 Illinois time) on the 145.350 NC9U 2-meter repeater and the 444.350 NC9U 440 repeater.

This net will be held five days a week through the winter months.

We will try to keep you advised of the latest weather for your drive time and we ask you to report any traffic hazards, so that the rest of us can stay away from them. And if you slide into a ditch, we will do our best to make sure that you get help.

Here's the way it works. When we take check-ins, we will put everyone's call on a list, hopefully in order and everyone will be called on to make a transmission. Please let us know when you want to check out, so we can remove you from the list.

If you need to make a comment to someone on the net, or make a call, that will be fine. Net control's main function is to keep the list moving.

We hope that you will become a Drive-Timer!

73,

Keith, WA9DRO

Ryves Hall Christmas cont'd. from p. 1

tables were set up filled with toys. After the children picked out several toys they were then allowed to go back to the party.

With the increase in numbers of children and the size of the new facility, another problem arose. The problem was one of communication. This is when the director, Jim Edwards, KA9DIF, asked the WVARA to help alleviate the problem.

Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD, undertook the task of finding hams who were interested in helping. As always many took the challenge. Chad, KC9BZG, stepped forward not only to obtain a sound system from Mix-FM but also to assist with communications during the party. Also one of the net controls for the 145.350 Drive-Time net, Chad held the net that day from the Ryves Hall Amateur Radio Club station and then spent the rest of the evening helping provide communications for the party. Keith, WA9DRO, volunteered to be net control for the Christmas party. Others providing communication were Dave, N9FMD, Ted, WB9QFE, Diane, KB9PAV, Diana, KC9DEA, and Jamie, KC9DRP. Also helping were the Keller family, Brian, KC9EBZ, Becky, KC9ECA, Aaron, KC9ECB, and Lindsey, KC9ECC.

With the added help communication was no longer a problem. Those problems that used to pop up, such as "where was Jim," or "do we need more children in the toy area," were alleviated. The party became a resounding success with help from local amateurs.

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, KT9T

Bandspread Editor Gary Wheeler, K9ERE

Bandspread Facilitator: Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD

Bandspread Circulation: Ray Andrews, K9DUR

Send all submissions

To: PO Box 81, Terre Haute, IN 47808-0081

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

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

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

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

Webmaster: David Pifer, N9YNF

The President's Corner

I know it may be hard to believe, but 2003 is almost behind us. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday. It has been a very good year for Amateur Radio in the Wabash Valley. I am looking forward to 2004 and the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead, knowing the hams in the Wabash Valley will step up and meet them.

Courtesy of Chad, KC9BZG and radio Station WMGI, we had the privilege of helping some young people at Honey Creek Mall in Terre Haute speak with Santa Claus at the North Pole via Amateur Radio before Christmas. John, N9YRX, put the project together, and we were able to put nearly 60 kids on the air, let them speak with Santa, and introduce them and their families to the world of the Amateur Radio service. It was a rousing success, and the mall management has already asked if we can come back again next year.. We were assisted in this effort by Clark Co ARES, WIRES, QCWA, CAARLA, OCRC, and other organizations.

We are currently accepting nominations for the Brentlinger Award. Deadline for these nominations is January 15. Please get your nominations in ASAP. If mailing your nomination to the club PO Box, please seal it inside a second envelope and clearly mark on the outside that it is a nomination for the Brentlinger Award.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to promote the electronic version of The Bandspread. A number of you have already signed up for the e-Bandspread, but we would like to see a few more members do so. The advantages of the electronic version include the pictures being in color rather than black and white, as well as it arriving several days before the print version. I look forward to seeing you at the January club meeting. Bring your rigs in for Check Your Rig Night.

Until then, 73.
Kevin, K9HX

HOOT OWL SPRINT

For those of you who subscribe to the QRP Quarterly, I noticed a familiar call sign. In the 2003 Hoot Owl Sprint, under Indiana, Jim Osburn, WD9EYB, was listed as coming in third. Way to go, Jim! - Jim Mc Fall, K9VDQ

W9NAA Enters November Phone Sweepstakes

The Rose Tech Radio Club decided to participate in the ARRL's November Phone Sweepstakes taking place on November 15th and 16th. As timing usually goes, that weekend was also the weekend before the school's final exams (a bad time to do anything but study). Still, we were enticed by the idea of our first serious contest as a club, so we came up with a plan. We would operate the station for the full 24 hours allowed by contest rules. Members who had earned HF privileges would rotate duty as control operator, so that (thanks to the FCC's third party communication rules) anyone could participate. Fortunately, there were plenty of members that were anxious to get involved with the contesting. This left plenty of time for people to study, or at least attempt to!

The station currently owns two HF rigs: a Kenwood TS-440 and a Collins KWM-2. While we would have loved to operate the contest with the KWM-2, a lack of parts prevented it. Instead, Don K9DRP, loaned the club his Kenwood TS-130 so that we could have two rigs to operate. We kept each radio on a different band, and ran 100 watts on both. The TS-440 spent most of it's time on the 40 and 80 meter dipole and occasional use on the station's Mosley five band beam antenna. The TS-130 enjoyed use of the Mosley and occasional use on the 40 meter dipole. The two rig setup allowed one person to search for the next contact while the other finished one up. On several occasions, we switched our strategy from search and pounce to calling CQ on a single frequency.

The contest ended with over 400 contacts logged and 77 of the 80 ARRL sections. The highlights of the contest for us were overcoming pileups to contact distant stations in Alaska, Hawaii, and the Maritime section, as well as running across a few Rose-Hulman alumni. We missed three Canadian sections, the Northwest Territories, Quebec, and Manitoba. At times we could hear people calling those stations in our missing sections, but could rarely hear the station ourselves, thus could not make the contact. We look forward to participating in future contests, and any other opportunities to put our newly renovated antennas and radios to use. If you frequent the HF bands, be sure to listen for Whisky Nine November Alpha Alpha, we would love to put you down in our log.

As usual, pictures of our contesting can be found in the "Picture Gallery" on W9NAA's website at ...

<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/Users/groups/radioclub/HTML/>

BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL?

Who knows? The station has no windows. Nice effect, tho.



Ask Dr. Elmer

Q. Sometimes I am talking to someone who is putting in a good strong signal but every now and then a few words drop out. Then the audio comes back, and then the whole problem starts over. Is there something wrong with my radio?

A. The problem you describe is called "clipping" and is quite common; there is nothing wrong with your radio. This means that the station you are hearing is sometimes sending too much audio for the repeater, or your receiver, to handle. In most of our VHF radios, the transmitter frequency varies according to the microphone audio, hence the term "Frequency Modulation" or "FM." This change of frequency, called deviation, is not supposed to exceed plus or minus 5 kHz. If the deviation does exceed this value, the receiving station, or repeater, is not able to process the signal, and the audio seems to go away. The solution is easy, just decrease the level of the audio. This can be done by adjusting the microphone gain control or decreasing the deviation control. In a pinch, just hold the microphone a little farther away from your mouth, and less audio will be sent through the system.

Joint WVARA, QCWA, CAARLA CHRISTMAS PARTY

WVARA members and guests returned to the World Gospel Church for this year's Christmas party, and this year we had the pleasure of additional company from members of the local Quarter Century Wireless Association and also the Crossroads of America Amateur Radio Ladies Association (CAARLA.) In all, about 35 people attended.

Our after-dinner program was presented by Gordon Pleuss, director of Vigo County's E-911 system. He is one of the most experienced 911 directors in the state, and was able to explain not only the workings of the local system, but its history and plans for the future as well. He also used the opportunity to demonstrate in real time the lack of accuracy in locating people who are on cell phones, with one sample call missing the Xmas party location by more than four miles.

Gary, W9EEU's church provided catering services. Three specific indicators attested to the high quality of the food...(1) There wasn't much left, (2) Most of what was left was carried home by assorted attendees, (3) A number of recipies were exchanged.

/SK

It is with sadness that we must report the recent passing of three more Wabash Valley amateurs, Norm Cooprider, N9JYW, Jim Schmittgens, KD9OD, and Marty Zubek, N9GMU. They will be missed as are all who switch to the mode of Silent Key.

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 equipment 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.



Shorts



SPRING WX SPOTTERS' CLASS

The 2004 NWS weather spotter class, sponsored by the WVARA and Illiana Skywarn, will be held on Monday, March 1, 7PM, at The Berean Baptist Church, 6770 N. Clinton street, just south of Sky King Airport on the west side of the road.

TERRE HAUTE RADIO CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

TERRE HAUTE RADIO CLUB DUES FOR 2004 ARE DUE JAN 1. IT'S STILL \$10 AND \$5 FOR OTHER HAMS IN A HOUSEHOLD. PLEASE SEND CHECK TO: TERRE HAUTE RADIO CLUB INC. P.O. BOX 5145 TERRE HAUTE, IN. 47805

OR SEE JIM, K9VDQ, LES, WB9FKS OR TIM, WB9MCD.

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE AT FT. HARRISON RESTAURANT (POST 40) DEC. 27, 8:15 A.M.

THE T.H.R.C. SUNDAY GET-TOGETHERS STILL MEET AT POST 40 AT 8:30 A.M. MOST SUNDAYS EXCEPT FOR HOLIDAYS AND HAMFESTS.

VE Testing

**TERRE HAUTE: 1st Sunday of even-numbered months
1 PM local time
Red Cross Bldg.
700 S. 3rd St.
Terre Haute, Indiana**

For further information, contact Steve Shorter, NT9T, Terre Haute, IN., at (812) 232-4788 or nt9t@arrl.net

MARSHALL: 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months

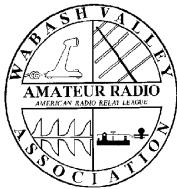
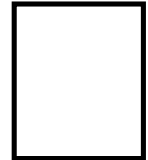
**8:30 AM Illinois time
1st Christian Church
902 N. 6th Street
Marshall, IL 62441
- Walk-Ins Welcome -**

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

January 10 Marshall

February 1 Terre Haute

THE BANDSPREAD - Official Publication of
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P.O. Box 81
Terre Haute, IN 47808-0081



January 2004

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.