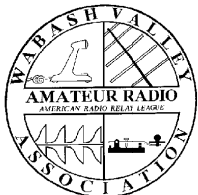


REGULAR EVENTS

Friday, General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Field Day Site
 June 4 Cory, Indiana - same place as last year.
 Monday, Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Glas-Col., 7th &
 June 7 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

Special Testing Session..... June 1 (See p.6)
 Illiana Skywarn "Yard Sale"..... June 19 (See below)
 Field Day June 25,26,27



THE

BANDSPREAD

JUNE 2004



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

FIELD DAY APPROACHES RAPIDLY!

Once again, Field Day for the WVARA will be held back in Cory. Those of you who supported the event last year will remember the wonderful site and great weather (not to mention the food) that we enjoyed throughout the entire three-day event.

And speaking of food... This year, with the membership's okay, we will go ahead with the food service expansion we began last year. We will continue to provide a Friday evening dinner for those who show up to help with the initial setup.

Saturday noon will feature an official lunch of cold cuts and drink. In the past, Ray and Natalie have provided a small fare for those who were preparing the final setup prior to the Field Day launch time of 1:00 PM.

Then, of course, we will have the traditional Saturday evening brat fest. Family members are encouraged to come out as well. If some of you want to stay and operate, you are welcome, but operation is not required. The only requirement is to bring an appetite and participate in the good fellowship.

Again, with the membership's approval, we are considering a Sunday morning scrambled egg, sausage and / or cereal fare for those who show up to participate in the final plunge toward the operating deadline of 1:00 PM. After this breakfast, you probably won't need lunch.

A donation will be asked at all the meals to help defray the cost of the food.

Skywarn Yard Sale

Illiana Skywarn is having a yard sale on Saturday June 19 at the Pifer's (N9YNF/KB9NLH) home at 6083 N. Clinton St. in Terre Haute in order to raise money for the Skywarn repeater linking project.

We are asking for your help. We are looking for donations of any saleable items that you can spare, not just ham radio related items; books, toys, clothes, shoes, etc. If you can name it, we can use it! We are also going to be selling food on that day; namely hot dogs, pop and bottled water, so we can also use donations of cases of pop and water as well.

All items for the sale need to be brought to the Pifer's house on Friday, June 18 after 6:00 p.m. We will need volunteers to help sort items on Friday, June 18 from 6-8 p.m. and volunteers on Saturday the 19th to help with the sale starting at 6:30 a.m. If you can help during either one of these times please e-mail Suzie Reedy KB9BLH at: smr@joink.com And of course, we will need you to come to the sale and find all of the bargains that you possibly can in order to help this project.

Thank you in advance for your help and please take this opportunity to clean out your attics and closets for the sale so that Illiana Skywarn can continue helping keep our community safe.

In Case You Don't Read the Rest of the Newsletter...

At the most recent WVARA Board meeting, one of the subjects was the imminent acquisition of the NC9U 444.350 repeater by Illiana Skywarn. [See articles, pp. 2&3]. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to the following actions:

1. The Board will recommend that the Club donate \$100 to the Repeater Fund.
2. The Board members together will contribute a sum of \$200.
3. At the June meeting, the Board members will...
 - a) ask for ratification of the \$100 Club donation to the Skywarn fund.
 - b) challenge the membership to match their \$200 donation.

C U there. -ed.

Bequests to the Club

Have you ever considered a bequest to the Club in your will or trust? It is easy to do. Contact the Club treasurer for more info.

June Program

The Club meeting program is about

Field Day - At The Site in Cory!

Talk-in will be available: 146.685

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 05/07/04

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Club President Kevin Berlen, K9HX, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice President Gary Adams, W9EEU. There were 18 Club members present and 3 guests; everyone introduced him/herself. Kevin presented a plaque honoring the Club's four Life Members. The plaque will be displayed in the Club Station; each individual Life Member will receive certificates. Kevin expressed his appreciation to Gary, W9EEU, for his efforts in obtaining the plaque.

Announcements: (1) WVARA Board Meeting Monday May 10 @ 6:00 PM at Glas-Col Apparatus. (2) CAARLA/QCWA meeting will be Saturday, May 8 at 12:30 PM, at Ambrosini's Restaurant (3) VE testing will be Saturday, May 8 at 8:30 AM, at the First Christian Church in Marshall, Illinois. (4) Volunteers are urgently needed for the Terre Haute Triathlon, May 15. Anyone able to assist is encouraged to contact Dave, N9YNF, for further details.

Secretary's Report: Debbie, KC9AOR, moved that the **Secretary's Report** be approved as published in *The Bandspread*; Chuck, KC9CKK, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Don presented the **Treasurer's Report**, stating that the Club has a balance on hand in all accounts of \$4,192.10. He moved that the report be approved as distributed; John, N9YRX, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the membership.

Old Business: (1) Dayton Bus Update - At the time of the meeting, there were 41 seats sold for the Dayton Bus, leaving 6 seats available. Kevin expressed his appreciation to everyone for his/her effort in making this a success. (2) Field Day - There will be a planning meeting Monday, May 17, at 6:00 PM at Maurizio's. Field Day will be held at the Fire Department Community Center in Cory. The program next month will be about Field Day. **New Business:** (1) Repeater power supply upgrade - Kevin reported that the Board voted to replace the power supply at the repeater site because the current power supply required battery replacement too frequently and it did not operate efficiently. The estimated cost of a new Astron power supply would be \$350, with the expectation of a 5-year battery life with the new power supply. It was the expectation of the Board that the old power supply could be sold to defray part of the cost of the new unit. Dave, N9YNF, moved to purchase the Astron power supply; Dave, N9FMD, seconded the motion. The members voted to approve the purchase of the new power supply. (2) Illiana Skywarn 444.350 repeater - Marvin, NC9U, will need to have the repeater moved from its present location and would like to sell the repeater to the Skywarn organization. Fund-raising needs/ideas were discussed. Kevin suggested that the Club make a financial donation to the project. The Board will decide at its next meeting what its recommendation will be; their recommendation will be published in *The Bandspread* for consideration by the membership with a vote taken at the June meeting. (3) Dave, N9FMD, reported that Jim, KA9DIF, has requested members of our Club to assist with their club station at Ryves Hall in the afternoons. Anyone interested in volunteering for this project was asked to contact Jim. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned following the half-pot drawing and the program which was a coax connector installation clinic presented by Jeff, K9KIX, and Kevin, K9HX. Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR, Secretary.

Board Meeting Minutes 05/10/04

Present were President , Kevin Berlen, K9HX; Vice President, Gary Adams, W9EEU; Board Member at Large, Chuck Procarione, KC9CKK; Past President, Steve Shorter, NT9T; Secretary, Debbie

Shorter, KC9AOR and Treasurer, Don Pine, K9DRP. Guests present were Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD and Gary Wheeler, K9ERE. Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. He asked for a report from Gary, W9EEU, regarding the results from Saturday's VE testing session; Gary reported that there were eight candidate with four new Technicians, two General upgrades, one Extra upgrade, and two candidates who passed the Code test. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Debbie, KC9AOR, moved that it be approved as published in *The Bandspread*; Chuck, KC9CKK, seconded the motion. The motion passed. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Don, K9DRP, reported a balance in all accounts of \$4,156.63. Don moved that the it be approved as distributed to The Board; Steve, NT9T, seconded the motion. The motion passed. **OLD BUSINESS:** (1) Vigo County CD Generator: Kevin advised Don that Ernie Meeks is the contact person at the West Terre Haute Police Department; Don reported that Chuck, KC9BBJ, has agreed to move the generator if we make the arrangements with the Police Department. Debbie is to e-mail a release form to Don to have signed. (2) Repeater Issues: Kevin reported that he hopes to get the power supply upgrade for the repeater resolved prior to the Dayton Hamvention. If he can't get repair parts ordered, he will purchase a new power supply at Dayton. (3) W9U/Indiana QSO Party wrap-up: Ray has made certificates to be signed by Vickie Rudisel and Kevin Berlen. They will then be mailed. Ray has also processed some certificates for the Special Events and will follow up on those. (4) Dayton Bus: At this time, it appears we have sold 44 tickets. (5) General Meeting Location: The next WVARA Club Meeting's subject will be Field Day preparation. It will tentatively be held at the Field Day location in Cory. We are still looking for a new location for our general meetings, particularly a handicapped-accessible site. Our goal is to have a new location by October. (6) Code Practice on the Repeater: Dave, N9FMD, had nothing new to report at this time. (7) Kevin has the Life Member Plaque in hand. He will have the individual certificates framed and will be presented at the next opportunity. **NEW BUSINESS:** (1) Illiana Skywarn Donation: The 444.35 repeater will be off the air soon and Illiana Skywarn intends to purchase the equipment at a cost of approximately \$2,000 and then get it back on the air at a new site. There was discussion of the Club making a one-time donation to assist in getting this project started. Gary, W9EEU, proposed that the Club donate \$100. Steve, NT9T, moved that the Club make a \$100 donation to Skywarn; Don, K9DRP, seconded the motion. In addition, the Board members personally raised \$200 for Skywarn. The Board is challenging the Club membership to meet or exceed that amount from their pockets by the end of June. The motion passed. (2) There was discussion of filing for 501-C3 status. Ray will follow up on that. (3) Field Day: Dave, N9FMD, reported Cory has once again been selected as the site for Field Day; we are holding a planning meeting next Monday evening at 6:00 PM at Maurizio's. Don, K9DRP, donated a tri-band antennae to the Club; Steve, NT9T, offered the use of a 60 foot tilt-up tri-band antenna; Chuck, KC9CKK, has a 40 foot lift which he can make available if needed. There was discussion about possibly operating 5A, but that will be determined at a later date. It was decided that we will need to take a full "work day" sometime prior to field day to practice assembly and check out equipment. (4) Dave, N9FMD, presented a letter from Jim, KA9DIF, presenting the need for an elmering Program on behalf of Ryves Hall. Gary, K9ERE, will summarize the letter and publish in *The Bandspread*. There being no further business, Chuck moved that the meeting be adjourned; Steve seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR, Secretary.

The President's Corner

Hello once again. The ARRL Field Day contest is almost here, and I am looking forward to another great event. People are still talking about the experience that we had last year. I hope that we can do at least as well as we did last year. Over the years I have been to many different Field Day activities. In my opinion, the location at the Cory Community Center is best location that we have ever operated from.

As some of you know, Illiana Skywarn is in the process of raising funds to purchase the 444.350 MHz NC9U repeater, currently on the air at Farmersburg. This repeater has been used for the last 18 months or so to provide a link between Illiana Skywarn net controls and the Central Indiana Skywarn net in Indianapolis. This system provides a vital link, not only our immediate area, but also several other Skywarn nets on the west side of Indiana. The Board has voted to donate \$100 to this project from the Club treasury. This appropriation will be submitted to a vote by the membership at the June meeting before it is dispersed. Additionally, members of the Board individually have raised another \$200 toward the project. The Board has challenged the club membership to match the \$200 that we have raised. This would allow the club to make a \$500 donation to this cause, while only impacting the club treasury by \$100. This amount is 25% of the anticipated financial need.

There has been some discussion regarding why our club should financially support this project, and not support some other projects in the area. My thoughts on this subject are that Illiana Skywarn previously has not had the need to fund any type of project, so they have no support system, or membership base that pay dues to support such an endeavor. An organization could be formed, but it might be several years before the financial goal necessary to fund this project could be realized. Unfortunately, This project is on a very tight time frame. One of the reasons that the repeater is being sold is that it must be relocated to make way for a HDTV installation on the Channel 10 TV tower. The system will need to be taken down in the very near future to make room on the tower for an additional antenna. A new tower site has been secured for this system that will not be affected by HDTV.

Please consider making a contribution to this worthy cause. Any member of the Board can accept your donation. We would like to have all of the contributions in by Field Day.

I look forward to seeing those that can make it to the June meeting. Remember that we have moved the meeting to the Field Day site at the Cory Community Center. A talk in on the club repeater will be available. Until then 73. Kevin, K9HX

Dear Dr. Elmer,

I've heard a lot of talk recently about the club's Field Day activities, but I just got my license and I don't know if I can make much of a contribution. What should I do?

This may be the easiest question so far this year... of course you should participate in Field Day. There will be something to learn and much to do, but most importantly this weekend is probably the best invention ever to get a feel for ham radio disaster participation. You can spend the entire time period with us, or we will gladly take whatever time and energy you have available.

To over-simplify just a little, we will go an open field in Cory, In, with everything needed to set up five radio stations. We will bring our own electric generators, radio equipment, food, tents, and everything else to live there for the weekend. We will try to keep each of the radio stations on the air for the maximum possible amount of time.

If your present license class does not include HF operations, we will have plenty of control operators available to get you on the air. Whatever your current interests are, this weekend provides your chance to learn about emergency communications, gives a taste of the contest part of our hobby, and is generally a good idea. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dr. Elmer is happy to answer your questions about ham radio, whatever your level of experience. Just send questions to the Bandspread editor.

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
Member at Large	Chuck Procarione, KC9CKK

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@arrl.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

Illiana Skywarn Repeater Purchase and Relocation FAQ

As most everyone knows by now, the 444.350 NC9U repeater in Farmersburg must be removed from the Channel 10 tower. Since the news broke, a number of people have been asking questions regarding the situation. Here is an attempt to answer those most frequently asked.

1. Why is the NC9U repeater going down?

The NC9U Repeater is going down, in part, because of the new HDTV antenna on Channel 10's tower. The HDTV antenna will be located at the top of the tower which is where the 444.350 repeater is. This meant that the repeater would either have to be relocated on the tower or relocated to another tower. Frankly, Marvin just got tired of being a repeater owner. He has decided to take his equipment off the air and systematically sell it.

2. When is it going down?

We are in hopes that the repeater will stay on the air until we are able to purchase it and relocate it.

3. Where will the new location be?

Currently we expect the new location to be on the MIX-FM tower just west of Terre Haute.

4. Under what call sign will it operate?

Illiana Skywarn has just received our temporary call which is KC9FYY. We are applying for the vanity call KI9SKY.

5. When do you expect the relocated machine to be in operation?

It is our hope that the machine can be relocated and operational by early July '04.

6. Will it require a PL tone?

No.

7. Will it retain the same frequency?

It is our hope that the 444.350 frequency pair will be reassigned to Illiana Skywarn. That, of course, will be up to the coordinator.

8. What is the expected coverage area?

Until the repeater is operational in its new location, it would be premature to make a guess at the new coverage area. However since the repeater's antennas will be 400-500 feet lower in height, you can guess that the coverage will be somewhat less than it is now.

9. Who will own the machine?

The machine will be licensed and coordinated in the name of Illiana Skywarn. Maintenance and improvement of the machine will be under the direction of and accomplished by Illiana Skywarn and Western Indiana Amateur Radio Emergency Cooperative, a newly-formed organization (501c3 pending). This group is being developed under 501c3 to assist Skywarn ARES and other Amateur Radio emergency groups to obtain much needed grant money to obtain and maintain equipment used in or during emergencies.

10. Wouldn't it be simpler for WVARA to have the repeater and make it available to Skywarn as is done on the 146.685 machine?

There is a two part answer to this question. 1. As we have stated in the answer to question #9; it is hoped that we will be able to obtain grants and other assistance to keep our equipment state-of-the-art. In order to do this, this equipment should be owned and operated by a 501c3 entity. 2. As a WVARA club member, I would prefer not to see the club take on the responsibility of maintaining another high-profile much-used repeater.

11. During non-weather net time, will the 444.350 repeater still be open to general amateur use?

Yes. It will be open to normal use just as it is now.

In closing, we in Illiana Skywarn and W.I.A.R.E.C. have not contacted any organization to formally request financial assistance in this project. We have sent informational letters as have appeared in e-mail on the WVARA listserv. Although we would welcome assistance from anyone who chose to be a part of this project, we do not want the deliberation as whether to support or not support this project to be a source of division in any club, organization or other group.

Thank you so much for the inquiries. I hope the answers will be helpful.

Keith Reedy, WA9DRO
Illiana Skywarn Coordinator

Open Letter to the Members of the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association

Dear Friends,

I am writing, not only as a member of the WVARA, but also as the trustee of KC9EKW. As you know, KC9EKW is the Ryves Hall Amateur Radio Club. In the past year we have assisted in licensing approximately 14 new amateurs. Correctly we have many other children who are extremely interested in the hobby.

I became interested in Amateur Radio when I was about eleven years old. Unfortunately, I didn't have an elmer to help motivate and teach me. Many years passed before I became motivated enough to study for my license.

I have been licensed now for well over twenty-five years. I have achieved the level of Amateur Extra Class and am now a VE. I have directed Ryves Hall Youth Center for over twenty-one of those twenty-five years and I have always dreamed of a time that we could offer Amateur Radio to our children,. Now is that time. In 2003, we served over 1900 different children. A majority of those children live in poverty and do not see a way out of the life they live.

I continue to believe that Amateur Radio is a way out and a vehicle for motivation. We now have the equipment for a nice club. We teach ongoing classes that help get many licensed. Unfortunately, this is not enough. We need physical help.

Elmers are needed to reach out to our children. Elmers do not have to be engineers or necessarily need to have very much technical knowledge. They do need to have a desire to help a child. I need hams that are of all classes and skill levels to spend one hour each week. They can stop by, have a cup of coffee and bond with a future ham, telling them of their experiences. I also need hams to operate our club station. It doesn't matter whether it is on two meters or HF. What does matter is that the station needs to be operational - a place where future hams can come and see what Amateur Radio is all about. It also needs to be a place where newly-licensed hams can come and learn operating procedures. You see, although I can teach the information that is required to obtain a license, I do not have the amount of time to spend with each child that would insure that they will become good operators. The last thing that I want is to license a "bunch of lids." I want our hobby to grow and thrive.

For this to happen, I need help! Therefore, I am requesting that you spread the word. The only way to help our hobby grow is to help those interested become good Amateur Radio operators. Please tell those interested to contact me. I can be contacted on the air at the youth center (235-1265) or at home (533-0070) or <jedwards@joink.com>.

Thank you,

Jim Edwards, KA9DIF, Director,
Ryves Hall Youth Center
1356 Locust St.
Terre Haute, IN 47807

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.

New Auto Tuners Need a Little Help

An interesting thread came up recently on one of the list serves on which I am a member, on the G5RV antenna, other multi band antennas and auto antenna tuners. Interesting to me, because I have been having some problems and I'll try to relate them to you along with the answers. For years we ran a Kenwood TS-450SAT of course with the built-in tuner. I never had a problem at all 80 through 10 tuning the G5RV. We've had the Kenwood 2000 for about 2 months and I noticed that we were having problems tuning 40 and 15 with the Kenwood 2000's built-in tuner. A number of other hams that I had talked to were having problems with the newer tuners: Kenwood, Yaesu, Icom, etc., so I wanted to know why.

It's like this: The newer tuners are the "new and improved" models. The older tuners used motors to select the proper capacitance while the newer tuners use relays to switch in capacitance networks which will supposedly keep the transmitter happy. This may not be true of some of the more expensive new auto tuners, but it certainly is true with the new low cost auto tuners. However there is a fix for this problem. MFJ makes an Auto Tuner Extender Model #MFJ 914 that sells for about \$50.00 which may very well solve your particular problem. When placed between the antenna and your transmitter, you can use the rotary switch on top of the extender to select various capacitance levels which will aid the auto tuner in not only tuning the G5RV, but most other antennas. We recently installed one here and all of the problems are history.

I guess, newer is not always better.

We hope this will be as much help to someone else as it has been to us.

73,

Keith WA9DRO

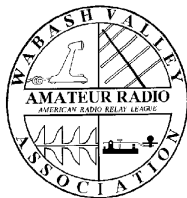
FOR SALE

I have a nice IC-706 for sale. It covers HF, 6M, 2M. Not an IC-706MKIIG but an IC-706. \$450.00 cash. It does just about what an IC-706MKIIG does but it is \$320.00 cheaper. You can contact me at <esdaparis@tigerpaw.com> or catch me on the repeater.

Thank you,

Terry, KB9ZVA

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



JUNE 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.

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

June 1 Rose Ventures*

June 6 Terre Haute

July 10 Marshall

* Special session for the General Upgrade Class, but anyone is welcome. 7PM, 3/4 mi. S. of I-70 on Rt. 46. Turn east at Moyer Rd.

