

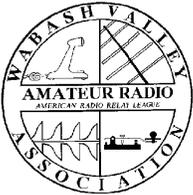
## REGULAR EVENTS

Monday, Board Meeting, 6:00 PM, Glas-Col., 7th & Aug 9 Hulman (Monday following the Gen. Mtg.)

Every Thursday The Club Station is open, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Downstairs, Red Cross Bldg., 700 S. 3rd.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**ANNUAL WVARA, QCWA, CAARLA and Eastside Outdoor Ham Club annual picnic. (See accompanying article.)**



THE

# BANDSPREAD

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

SUMMER 2004



## FIELD DAY 2004 - BETTER STILL!

For the second consecutive year, Field Day was held as a joint WVARA, QCWA, CAARLA and Eastside Outdoor Ham Club activity. And for the second straight year "the weatherman" was very accommodating.

After last year's unprecedented success in "racking up the numbers" the leadership decided to switch from the traditional 4A to 6A. Last year we had people waiting to get a spot at a radio so it was calculated that we might be able to continually fill six positions instead of the usual four. We did.

The food contingent was also prepared this year with four planned meals instead of the usual two. This took the individual responsibility to provide one's own meals off each operator, eliminating the need to either "brown bag" two meals or drive into town to be fed.

New also this year was a second "mechanical tower," courtesy of Chuck, KC9CKK. (See accompanying pictures) This allowed us two rotating beams which could keep up with changing band conditions, changing regional activity and the terminator - no not the Terminator - the terminator. Y'know, that area where light and dark meet that affects propagation.

This year we also made the "afterglow" an official part of the proceedings. Last year, in order to minimize the effect of the bugs - no, not the Vibroplex Bugs - the ones that bite, sting or otherwise get inhaled when you suddenly gasp after being recognized in a pileup. We purposely did not turn the lights on when the sun went down, leaving only the glow of



**The K9's came from far and wide!**

the meters and computer displays to light the area. It produced a wonderful effect which we hope will remain a part of each year's Saturday evening's operations.

Many new (and old) aspiring CW operators were inspired and humbled by the presence both Saturday and Sunday of Marv, W9KT, who can copy upwards of 50wpm in his head. (Your editor has actually witnessed him copying seemingly indecipherable letters at 90wpm.) Good grief! It sounded like a digital transmission, which, actually... it was.

There were no automotive breakdowns this year, but with the number of backup operators on hand, we could probably have simultaneously run an auto repair shop on the side.

Cont'd, see Field Day, p. 4

## JOINT CLUBS' PICNIC

The combined WVARA, QCWA, CAARLA and Eastside Outdoor Ham Club annual picnic will again meet on August 14, at the home of Gary, K9ERE and Pat, KA9ALI.

Swimmers can arrive as early as 4PM. The charcoal will be ready at about 6 PM.

As usual, this is a pitch-in with the meat being provided by the WVARA. There will be brats, hamburgers and hot dogs. The hosts will provide tea and lemonade. Disposable table service will also be provided courtesy of the WVARA, but feel free to bring your own, if you wish.

Also, please be sure to bring folding chairs - maybe even more than you need. We have a very limited number here.

Also, be sure to get your "stuff" afterward. We always have bowls, spoons and swim goggles left over.

Talk-in on 146.685!

CU there!

## LOCAL NETS

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Wednesday Evening  | 9:00 pm CST |
| Clark Co. ARES Net | 146.520/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

# Minutes



## General Meeting Minutes 06/04/04

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Club President, Kevin Berlen K9HX. **Announcements:** (1) Kevin reported that the recently completed upgrade class produced several successful candidates and he congratulated all of those who achieved their goal; he noted that there were seven successful candidates at the special Tuesday evening test session, including several who had not attended the class. He expressed appreciation to all of the instructors who donated their time and effort. (2) VE testing will be held this Sunday at 1:00 P.M. at the Red Cross. (3) Field Day will be the 26th and 27th of this month. More information will follow later in this meeting. (4) On June 15th a simulated emergency will be held at the Vigo County School Corporation building at 7th and Wabash at 7:00 A.M. They have requested our assistance and that we have three HTs available for the event. (5) The 19th of June will be the Skywarn Garage Sale in the open lot by the home of Dave and Mary Pifer. All donated items need to be on site by Friday evening. Any item for sale will be welcome, not only Amateur Radio equipment. All proceeds will be to the Skywarn Repeater Fund. Also on the 19th will be the delayed "G5RV party." (6) NT9T announced that advance tickets are available for the Indianapolis Hamfest to be held July 10 at Sertoma. Advance tickets are \$6 and will be \$10 at the door. (7) Dave, N9FMD, announced that the Memorial Day Holiday weekend was busy with weather activity. In fact, there were fifty-six stations who checked in. That number was the second highest number of check-ins in the history of Skywarn in the Wabash Valley. He expressed appreciation for all the help from spotters and net-controls as well. Gary, K9ERE, noted that several of the usual net control stations were out of town for the weekend and several relatively new people took over for them and did an excellent job.

**Secretary's Report:** Debbie, KC9AOR, moved that the minutes be approved as published in The Bandspread. Ray K9DUR seconded the motion; the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don, K9DRP, presented the Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$4,439.08 in all accounts after paying for the Dayton Bus; the ticket sales for the bus resulted in a profit of \$260.00. Don moved that the report be approved as presented; Dave, N9FMD, seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**Old Business:** (1) Donation from the Club to the Skywarn Repeater project. Kevin announced that The Board supported a monetary contribution to the project. They voted to donate \$100 from the club treasury. Steve NT9T moved that the Club donate \$100 to the Skywarn Repeater project; Dave, N9FMD, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. In addition to the \$100 Club donation, the members of the Board have personally raised another \$200 and issued a challenge to the membership to match that amount. Any monies for this purpose can be turned in to any Board member; if at all possible, we would like to have the money in hand by Field Day.

**New Business:** There was discussion regarding Club participation in the Strawberry Fest. Anyone interested in assisting with this was asked to see Jay, AB9CG. During the break,

Ron, AB9GI, won the half-pot drawing of \$12.00. The program on Field Day followed; Dave, N9FMD, is this year's Field Day chairman and presented information about the purpose and procedures for Field Day while Jim, WD9EYB, demonstrated the logging program. Following the program, the meeting was adjourned.

-Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR

## Board Meeting Minutes 06/07/04

The June 7, 2004 W.V.A.R.A Board meeting was called to order by Club President Kevin Berlen, K9HX, at 6:04 P.M. Also present were Past President Steve, NT9T, Secretary, Debbie, KC9AOR; Treasurer, Don, K9DRP; Board Member at Large, Chuck, KC9CKK; Vice President, Gary, W9EEU and guest, Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD. Debbie moved that the previous month's minutes be approved as published in The Bandspread. Chuck seconded the motion and the motion passed. Don distributed the Treasurer's Report which showed a balance in all accounts of \$4,414.08. Don moved that the report be approved as presented; Gary seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Old Business:** (1) Repeater issues: Kevin reported that he has no new information at this time. The replacement power supply for the repeater was discussed. (2) The Skywarn Repeater Fund Challenge: Don reported that the Club now has a total of \$550 on hand or in pledges to benefit the Skywarn fund. The Memorial Day weather event was discussed and Dave requested pictures of the event be E-mailed to Gary, K9ERE. (3) Dayton bus: Turner has requested that we make early reservations for the bus for 2005. Kevin proposed that we reserve the bus again for next year and follow same process as we did this year. Reservations will not cost us anything until the first of the year. Steve will make the contact. (4) Meeting location was discussed. Glas-Col was offered as an option and the Board members were given a tour of the facility. The advantages offered include elevator access to the meeting area. The Board moved that we try the location for our October meeting and see how it works. The Board expressed its appreciation to Gary for his assistance in this endeavor. (5) Code practice on the repeater: Dave had nothing to report at this time. It was noted that Roy, KB9GN, and Don, K9DRP, will try hosting CW practice on 144.045 at 9:00 in the evenings. (6) Field Day: there was discussion regarding changing to 5 or 6-Alpha in order to allow more people to operate at a time. It was decided to try 5-Alpha this year but to have equipment available should we decide to go 6-Alpha.

**New Business:** Regarding cards/flowers for hospitalized members/family members: In order to help keep expenses down Chuck moved that we send cards to Club members and their immediate family members when in the hospital; the policy will remain the same that flowers will be sent for the death of a Club member or an immediate family member. Don seconded the motion; the motion carried. Debbie also requested that people notify her when someone is hospitalized or passes away so she can follow up in a timely manner. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M. - Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter KC9AOR, Secretary.



## Board Meeting Minutes 07/12/04

The July 2004 Board meeting of the WVARA was held on Monday, July 12, 2004. The meeting was held at the Glas-Col conference room, and was called to order at 6:11PM by President Kevin, K9HX. Members present were Vice-president Gary Adams, W9EEU, Treasurer, Don Pine, K9DRP, Trustee, Ray Andrews K9DUR, and Board Member at Large, Chuck Procarione, KC9CCK. There was no **Secretary's Report** due to the absence of Debbie, KC9AOR. Don, K9DRP, presented the **Treasurer's Report**. As of July 12, 2004, balance in all accounts was \$4321.42. Motion to accept the treasurer's was made by Don, and seconded by Chuck. Motion carried. **Old Business:** 1) Vigo Civil Defense generator: Don reported that the generator had not yet been delivered, but that Debbie had provided him with a release to be signed when it was. 2) Generator issues. Kevin reported nothing new. 3) Repeater issues. A work day has been set for August 21 for installation of the new controller and possibly the new battery reverting power supply. 4) Illiana Skywarn donation. Don reported that a total of \$438 had been contributed to the project through the club. combined with \$50 sent direct to Skywarn by club members, and the \$100 from the club treasury, that makes the total WVARA contribution to the project \$588. To date, a total of \$550 has been given forwarded, leaving \$38 to pass on. 5) Field Day 2004 wrap-up: Various aspects of this years Field Day operation were discussed. Motion was made by Gary and seconded by Chuck to return to Cory for the 2005 event. Motion carried. The suggestion was made to have a tune-up day for the Club antennas sometime this fall, possibly in September. **New Business:** 1) Bison Stampede 2005. Ray asked if we would be interested in operating in the Bison Stampede again next year. The idea was discussed. We will need greater participation from the club membership if we are going to do it again. The suggestion was made to operate the event from a public location as a mini Field Day operation. No action was taken 2) Tailgate 2005: Ray asked about the location and date for the 2005 event. It was discussed and decided that we would like to go back to the Marine Corps League bingo hall if possible. Motion made by Ray and seconded by Chuck to make a \$95 donation for the use of the facility this year. Motion carried. 3) Club Station: Marketing of the Club station and the schedule of days when it is open were discussed. The plan to remodel the operating position was discussed. No action was taken. There being no further business, Ray made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:47PM. -Submitted for the Secretary Kevin, K9HX

## 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 information.

## Dear Dr. Elmer...

When I use my portable HT in the house I plug a power supply into the household socket, and use that to power the radio. People have been complaining that my signal transmits a strong "buzz" when I do that, but not when I use the battery pack. What is the problem?

This is quite easy to solve, and is more common than many people think. The problem is caused by the wall-mount power supply. In some cases by a lack of filtering and in others by a lack of capacity, and sometimes both.

If your radio requires 12 volts DC from an external source, most small plug-in transformers do not include filtering capacitors to remove the 60hz hum, so that is passed onto your audio. You might not hear this noise yourself, because your receiver requires very little current to operate. But when transmitting the required current could easily exceed 2 amps, and greatly exceed the capacity of the power supply.

You should have better results if you use the wall-mount supply to charge a battery pack, and then use the battery to operate the radio.

The problem will eventually repeat itself, as the rechargeable battery loses its ability to hold a charge. At that point, the battery is not only failing to accept the charge but is also failing to filter the power supply. You will know when you reach this point, because the battery pack will fail to operate the radio properly even after being on charge all night.

Another solution is to use a power supply designed to support your radio. Such units as Astron and others, include good quality filtering, and will provide many years of reliable operation.

Dr. Elmer is pleased to answer your questions in this column. If there is something unclear in your mind, or any questions about ham radio, just send a note 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, KC9CCK |

**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](mailto:k9ere@earthlink.net)

Or e-mail the Club at: [w9uuu@arrl.net](mailto:w9uuu@arrl.net)

Or e-mail the Discussion Group at: [wvara@mailman.qth.net](mailto:wvara@mailman.qth.net)

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

Webmaster: David Pifer, N9YNF

## The President's Corner

I hope that the summer has been enjoyable for each of you. It has been a busy time of the year for our family.

The Club 2004 Field day activity was a great success again this year. We again combined forces with several other clubs in the area, and scored over 1000 more points this year than in 2003, and logged over 1300 QSO's. The CW operations made a bigger contribution this year, accounting for more total points than the phone operation did. And who can forget the wind gust Sunday morning that launched our sign-in paper work into orbit? We truly had another great event.

There are some upcoming events to keep in mind. First, on August 14 will be our annual picnic. Again this year we will be at the home of Pat, KA9ALI, and Gary, K9ERE. We will be joining with CAARLA and QCWA for a combined event. See the article elsewhere in this issue for details.

Also, the September meeting will be held at the WTHI/WWVR studios at 918 Ohio Street in Terre Haute. The program for this meeting will be a tour of their studios for WTHI-FM, WWVR, and WTHI-TV. This should be a very interesting program. It has been about 10 years since we have been there.

I hope all of you can make it to the picnic, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Until then 73,  
Kevin, K9HX

## Field Day Cont'd from p. 1

Lastly, we found it important this year to stress the fact that the ARRL, the originator of Field Day, stresses that there are FIVE, not one, co-equal goals of the Field Day exercise. They are as follows: • A contest, of course • An emergency preparedness exercise • A public relations exercise • A recruiting tool • A family social event. As such, each local Field Day event should be evaluated not just by the number of points racked up, but how well we did in the areas of making the public aware of what we can do, how many new hams we may have inspired and how many non-ham family members got a better idea of what their spouse, parent or sibling does when he or she is involved in ham radio. We did better on all counts this year than ever before in this person's memory.

Great going, everyone! Now, on to next year! -Ed.



Ever see a real "Bug"? You have now!

## Vigo Co. LEPC Tabletop Exercise

Various Vigo Co emergency response agencies, including ARES, were called to an accident on I-70 near highway 41 in response to a accident. The call was the result of a tanker carrying hazardous material being caught in severe WX. The call was not real, but instead was designed as a test of these various agencies.

The "accident" was part of a tabletop exercise, held on June 17, and was sponsored by the Vigo County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The exercise was held at the Vigo Co. School Corporation headquarters. David Pifer, N9YNF, Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD and Gary Wheeler, K9ERE, represented ARES.

According to LEPC director, Gordon Pleus, exercises such as this help different agencies to more effectively work with one-another. In this exercise, Amateur Radio demonstrated its ability to deal with severe WX communications to the other agencies.

This exercise demonstrated activities that normally are first conducted under the auspices of Skywarn, and later, in the aftermath of the severe WX, by ARES. The Amateur Radio operators demonstrated what they could contribute to the effort, if asked. During the post-exercise critique, the hams also identified additional problems they had seen during the exercise, i.e., the planned reliance upon cell phones.

ARES' participation in this exercise was another in a series of local emergency planning meeting in which Amateur Radio was well represented.

-Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD

Photos from the Jun 15th LEPC meeting

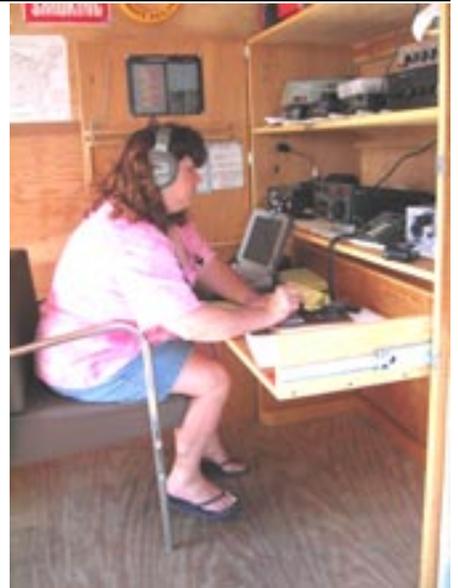


It was a tough job distilling over 100 pix down to a manageable amount. We regret those we had to leave out. However... look for the entire collection on the Club web page in the not-to-distant future. BTW, all photos are staff photos. No one else contributed anything this time. -Ed.



# Setup





# Ops



Well, someday maybe.

# AFTERGLOW



**It is becoming a tradition, that as the sun goes down, we operate only by the light produced by the radio dials and the computer displays. - Quite a scene!**

## 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.



## 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

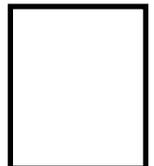
**September 11** Marshall

**October 3** Terre Haute



# And we all survived it! See you next year!

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



## SUMMER 2004

2004= year; NL= Newsletter only;  
COMP= Complimentary Membership;  
LIFE=Life Membership If there is no  
symbol showing on your mailing label, this  
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the enclosed membership form to join the  
Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association.