

REGULAR EVENTS

Friday, Dec 2 General meeting, 7:00 PM, Glas-Col Apparatus 7th & Hulman (1st Friday of each month.)
The Board meeting immediately follows the General meeting. Vistors are welcome.

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

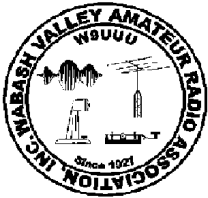
SPECIAL EVENTS

Abbotville Ttabletop Exercise..... Fri, Sat, Sun Dec 2,3,4

Wabash Valley Xmas Party (all amateurs welcome). Dec 10

Santa at the Mall Dec 17

[See details, p. 6]



THE

BANDSPREAD

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

December 2005



KA9DIF! WE DID IT AGAIN!

Or, rather, *he* did it. Again, for the fourth year out of five, the WVARA can boast the 2005 Indiana Radio Club Council's Amateur of the Year among it's ranks. He is Jim Edwards, KA9DIF! And, we think, rightly so!

The importance of ham radio to the lives of the Edwards family is exemplified by the fact that three other members of his family are also licensed.

But Jim's nomination centered on his use of Amateur Radio with the kids at Ryves Hall Youth Center. Since becoming director in 1982, Jim has been a positive role model to countless children in the Terre Haute area. Under his direction, Ryves Hall has developed a thriving Amateur Radio program for which Jim is the primary instructor.

Through grants and donations, Jim has managed to install a complete Amateur Radio station at the facility covering 2 meters, 70 centimeters and HF. He has also organized the Ryves Hall Amateur Radio Club, call sign KC9EKW (every kid wins).

Jim is also active in other Amateur Radio-related activities in the Wabash Valley. He holds an Extra Class license and is an ARRL-accredited VE who contributes numerous hours out of his busy schedule assisting the WVARA in its monthly testing program.

Jim is always ready at a moment's notice to aid local Amateur Radio projects. Earlier this year, the WVARA learned, with only two weeks notice, that the location for this year's Tailgate Party was no longer available. Jim stepped in with an offer to use Ryves Hall as an alternate location, which we gratefully accepted. He provided assistance with



Jim Edwards, KA9DIF

setup details and even provided volunteer boy scouts to act as guides. A certain disaster was turned into a complete success.

Well deserved, Jim! -ed.

2005 Nominations Committee Report

Constitutionally, the Purpose of the Nominations Committee, is "... to select a slate of candidates who have agreed to serve as officers if elected."

In practice, this has come to mean that the committee shall strive to find the *best* candidates who both *can* and *will* serve in the various positions, if elected. Prime considerations include abilities to handle that particular office and past committment to the Club.

If given sufficient notice, usually a week or more, other candidates may also have their names put on the printed ballot if they request it.

Nominations, from the floor, on election night, are appropriate as well.

For President: Gary Adams, W9EEU
For Vice Pres: Don Pine, K9DRP
For Secretary: Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR
For Treasurer: Chuck Procarione, W9COD
For Trustee: Kevin Berlen, K9HX
: Jim Osburn, WD9EYB

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Reedy, WA9DRO, Chair

Club Meeting Program

In addition to the yearly Board of Directors election, we will hold a jun... superannuated technology auction. Trade your valued treasures for some dough, or buy someone else's and keep it in *your* basement for a while. Donation of profits to the Club are always welcome. Some items will be from the estate of K9MEL. See article, p.4

LOCAL NETS

Tuesday Evening	8:00 pm THT
Parke Co. Em Svs Net	146.745/R
Wednesday Evening	10:00 pm THT
Clark Co. ARES Net	146.520/S
Thursday Evening	9:00 pm THT
CAARLA Net	146.685/R
Sunday Morning	8:20 am THT
Vigo Co. ARES Net	146.685/R
Sunday Evening	9:00 pm THT
WVARA Net	146.685/R*

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



General Meeting Minutes 11/04/05

The November 4, 2005, WVARA Club meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Club President Gary Adams, W9EEU. Jack, K9CUN, and Dave, N9YNF, presented a program on the National Traffic System's format for message handling. Following the break and half-pot drawing, which was won by Delbert, KC9DRR, the business meeting was conducted. Announcements: (1) CAARLA/QCWA meetings will be held Saturday, November 12, at Pizza City beginning at 12:00 p.m. (2) Sunday, November 13, will be the EOHC foxbox hunt at Hawthorne Park beginning at 2:00 p.m. (3) VE testing will be held November 12, at Marshall. (4) The WVARA Christmas party will be December 10, at the World Gospel Church. The meal will begin at 7:00, followed by a grab bag gift exchange. The Club will be supplying the meat and everyone should bring a covered dish and a no-more-than \$5 wrapped grab bag gift. (5) Santa at the Mall will be December 17. This will be all day Saturday and we have a special event call sign W9S. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. (6) Dale, KC9HLD, will be having an antenna raising party at 2:00 this Saturday. (7) Donations are needed for KC9EKW, Ryves Hall Youth station. Jim, KA9DIF, announced that help will be needed for the Christmas party on December 22. (8) Kevin announced that there are two new repeaters on the air in Vermillion County. They are 146.715 and 442.175 MHz out /447.175 MHz in, with no PL tone. (9) Dave, N9YNF, announced that on December 2, 3, and 4 will be a NIMS tabletop exercise simulating possible local emergencies. There are 2 seats available and you will need to see him to sign up. There were no questions on the Secretary's Report and it was approved as published in The Bandspread. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Chuck, W9COD, who reported a balance of \$4,108.64 in all accounts and moved that it be approved as presented; Steve, NT9T, seconded the motion. The motion carried. Old Business: There was none. New Business: (1) excess equipment sealed bids will be accepted until the Board Meeting convenes. (2) Nominating Committee report. The following people have been nominated by The Committee: Gary Adams W9EEU - President; Don Pine K9DRP - Vice President; Chuck Procarione W9COD - Treasurer; Debbie Shorter KC9AOR - Secretary; Kevin Berlen, K9HX and Jim Osburn, WD9EYB, for Trustee. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter KC9AOR, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 11/04/05

The November 4, 2005, meeting of the WVARA Board was called to order at 9:04 p.m. by Club President Gary Adams, W9EEU. Also present were Vice President Don Pine, K9DRP, Secretary; Debbie Shorter KC9AOR, Treasurer; Chuck Procarione, W9COD, Past President; Kevin Berlen, K9HX, Past President; Steve Shorter,

NT9T, Trustee; David Pifer, N9YNF, and guests Mary Pifer, KB9NLJ, Jim Osburn, WD9EYB, Gary Wheeler, K9ERE, and Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD. The **Secretary's Report** is to be amended to list Kevin, K9HX, as Hamfest Chairman and omit Don, as chairperson. Kevin, K9HX, moved and Don seconded the motion to accept the minutes as amended. The motion carried. Chuck, W9COD, presented the **Treasurer's Report** with a balance in all accounts of \$4,108.64. He reported that the insurance has been paid out of this. Chuck moved that the report be approved as presented; David seconded the motion and the motion carried. Don, requested that a Quicken report be made to the Board. It was also noted that the Treasurer's Report is to be published in The Bandspread tri-annually. **Old Business:** (1) Generator Repairs remain on hold. The generator is mobile by pick up truck and Kevin will deliver it to anyone who will work on it. (2) Packet Digipeater. David, N9YNF, worked on it and problems were discussed. (3) Christmas Party. Entertainment was discussed. Donnetta Berlen will prepare the meat; Mary Pifer is in charge of the decorations. (4) Santa at the Mall was discussed. (5) Hamfest location was discussed. Chuck reported that he has been unable to secure the fairgrounds yet and the time is here for flyers with location to be printed for distribution at the Hamfest in Ft. Wayne. Other options were discussed. Kevin will follow up. (6) Review equipment bids. Top bids were: Repeater controller - \$81.18 Chris Hebb; 4 amp power supply - \$2.10 Jim Canarecci; 6 amp power supply - \$4.10 Jim Canarecci. The rest of the equipment will go to auction. Kevin moved and Chuck seconded to approve the bids. The motion carried. **New Business:** (1) Bison Stampede: location was discussed; the deadline for a decision is the January Board meeting. Don and Chuck will co-chair the committee for the Bison Stampede. (2) Repeater upgrades were discussed. Kevin reported that there has been ongoing testing regarding the sensitivity issue. It appears to be a hardware issue in the receiver. Following discussion of possible solutions to the problem, David moved that we propose to the membership to add a satellite receiver to the 146.685 repeater at a cost of not more than \$1700; Steve seconded the motion. This will enhance the receive coverage and has the potential for expansion. The motion was approved with one vote in opposition. (3) The bylaws require that the election be done by secret ballot. One ballot will be presented and voted on. (4) Dave, N9FMD, reported that as of today 40 pagers are in use with 30 still available. (5) Dave, N9FMD, presented an idea for a fundraiser. Discussion followed. (6) Board meeting time was also discussed. (7) Don reported that he has around 10,000 tubes from Bill Payton's hamshack which we need to inventory. A plan was discussed. Board members will pick up a box from Don at the Club station on Thursday evenings and return the box to Don after doing the inventory. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter KC9AOR, Secretary

The President's Corner

I just returned home from the Ft. Wayne Hamfest where the Indiana Radio Club Council presents the annual Outstanding Amateur of the Year award. For the 4th time in the last 5 years the award was presented to a Wabash Valley ham. This year the Wabash Valley had two nominees for this very prestigious award, with Kevin Berlen (K9HX) and Jim Edwards (KA9DIF) both being nominated. This year the IRCC Outstanding Amateur of the Year is Jim Edwards, and it was nice to be present and be a part of the presentation. There were seven total nominations this year and two of them from the Wabash Valley. What this all says to me is that we have an absolutely outstanding group of hams in our area and we should be proud to be a part of this group. Congratulations to Jim for being named the IRCC Outstanding Amateur of the Year!

This is my last article for the 2005 year and I want to thank all of you for the privilege of serving the WVARA as your President. It has been a fun, challenging and very rewarding year. To all who have participated in any way with the WVARA, a huge thank you to all, it simply would not be possible without each and every one of you. I look forward to exciting things with the WVARA in 2006.

73,
Gary, W9EEU

Ham Radio's Role During Emergencies

We don't have the space to reprint the following two articles from Electronic Design Magazine, but we think they are significant. Following are the URLs for the two articles. Enjoy.

Old vs. New communications Technology / ARES
<http://www.elecdesign.com/Articles/Print.cfm?ArticleID=11164E>

NBC's TonightShow/ARES
<http://www.elecdesign.com/Articles/Print.cfm?ArticleID=11136>

-Info courtesy David Pifer, N9YNF

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	Gary Adams, W9EEU
Vice-President	Don Pine, K9DRP
Secretary	Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR
Treasurer	Chuck Procarione, W9COD
Trustee	David Pifer, N9YNF
Immediate Past Pres	Kevin Berlen, K9HX
Past President	Steve Shorter, NT9T

Bandspread Editor: Gary Wheeler, K9ERE

Bandspread Facilitator: Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD

Bandspread Circulation: David & Mary Pifer, N9YNF & KB9NLJ

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

Dear Dr. Elmer

Why Do We Do It?

The question comes up from time to time..."Why do we have so many activities supporting community events?" The answer is nearly always about the same: We need to practice, to get some visibility in the area, and to have some fun. But wait, there's more.

If you refer back to ARRL Bulletin 10, dated Feb 1, 2002, you will discover that hams in New Orleans were asked to provide communications support for that year's Super Bowl. That message said in part "...the hams plan to give Red Cross officials instant information on, and contact with, emergency and disaster relief resources in the field." And further "...Red Cross personnel rely heavily on cellular telephones, and hams have been requested to serve as a backup if the cellular system somehow becomes overloaded with calls."

So the local hams went to the Super Dome and practiced their skills. They became more aware of their surroundings and the capabilities and limitations of their systems. And they demonstrated these skills to local authorities at the Super Dome.

When the area needed an emergency shelter of last resort, what building did they choose? And, who was left to help with the radio? Local hams.

Dr. Elmer is happy to answer your questions. Just send them to:

Dr. Elmer
P.O. Box 81
Terre Haute IN, 47808-0081

Or e-mail the editor at k9ere@earthlink.net

K9HX is 2005 Indiana Radio Club Council Amateur of the Year Runner - Up!

Among the runners-up for this year's IRCC Amateur of the Year was also one of our own, Kevin

Berlen, K9HX. We think that Kevin, who has been a two-time Brentlinger recipient was also more than worthy of the AOY award.

He almost single-handedly maintains three local repeaters, donating his time and talents to an often thankless job.

His recent leadership and stewardship through a number of difficult Club transitions has been of immense value to Amateur Radio in the Wabash Valley.

These are but a few examples of why he is worthy of the AOY award, in our opinion.

Well done, Kevin. -ed.



KT9E News

The 2005 "Hootowl Sprint" contest was held in May with the Eastside Outdoor Ham Club participating. The event was held in KG9GN'S back yard with 10 hams in attendance. The hours of operation were 8 PM to Midnight on a Sunday evening.

Operators were WB9ZHC, Ginger, K9DRP, Don, and WE9EYB, Jim. Gas lantern lighting was provided by KG9GN and a tower trailer was provided by K9VDQ, Jim.

QRP CW operation mode had 37 entries nationwide plus Canada. KT9E placed 7th out of the total group.*
K9VDQ, Jim

*Statistics are courtesy The QRP Quarterly, Fall, 2005 edition, pp. 46-47.

An Area Alert System for Vigo County - One Opinion

18 November 2005

There has been much conversation recently about various ways to warn the public when an emergency situation presents itself in our area. Some people advocate a county-wide siren system, others seem to favor a telephone dialing system to call all residents. I am pushing for the use of NOAA Weather Radio to get the job done.

We should think about these options, and do what we can to push the strategy that makes the most sense to us. We are the people highly involved in the process, and the people our neighbors may talk to because of the antennas mounted on our roof and on our car, the funny license plate and the weather stories we have told around the camp fire.

The so-called "reverse 911" system is actually the brand name of a product, and there are several competing systems that do the same thing. When an alert is needed, the system calls all telephone numbers in a selected area, and reads them a short message. In terms of severe weather, remember that we have all spent the past decade or more telling people to stay away from the telephone in the event of a severe thunderstorm or whenever lightning is present. We all have heard stories about people who were on the phone when the storm hit, and nearly had their ears blown off. I think we should continue to stay off the phone when the weather turns severe.

Siren alerting systems have been around for a very long time, and also have a few flaws. A recent survey indicated that there are currently about 22 sirens in place throughout Vigo County, and most of them don't presently work. Information has been received from several vendors about installing an adequate siren system for the county, and the most comprehensive bid would cost more than 2.5 million dollars. That seems like a lot of money for a system that many people won't hear when they are closed up in a house with a TV or CD playing in the background.

Why not use a working system that is already in place? Local vendors sell weather radios for less than \$30 that will notify all users that a watch or warning has been issued. In addition, the weather service office has told me that they will work with local officials to make their system available for use in the event of other problems, such as a chemical spill or whatever. Radio Shack has told me that they will routinely discount the price of the radio for a large order, such as 1,000 units. Based on their figures, I calculate that 2.5 million dollars in siren money would be enough to purchase more than 143,700 (yes thousand) such radios. Or we could purchase a few thousand less radios and buy some spare batteries.

These questions are being talked about by local government right now, so if you have an opinion this is the time to act.

Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD

K9MEL Estate Items

The following items will be available at the December Club auction:

- One Heathkit single trace oscilloscope.
- One mil-surplus (possibly dual trace) oscilloscope.
- Hallicrafters SX-62 general coverage shortwave receiver in travel case and matching Hallicrafters speaker. Receiver may need some work.
- One small RCA TV studio camera and lens in travel case. Not sure if this is a color or B&W camera.
- Two handheld programmable scanners. Condition unknown.

LOTS of misc items too.

Satellite Receiver Project for the K9IKQ 146.685 MHz Repeater

For some time, we have been looking at ways of improving coverage on the Club's 2-meter repeater. At the November Board meeting, the following project was presented and approved by the Board. It will be presented to the membership for your consideration at the December meeting.

The basis of the project will be to add a second, or "satellite" receiver to the 2-meter repeater system. The proposed location for this receiver will be the 550 ft. WTHI tower located at their studios at 918 Ohio St. in downtown Terre Haute. There is an existing antenna system at approximately 400 ft. which we will utilize for this receiver. The signal from this site will be sent via a 446 MHz RF link to the repeater site. In addition to the second receiver and link equipment, we will add a four-channel signal-to-noise voter that will automatically sample the received signal from both receivers, and select the best one to be repeated by our transmitter. We will have capacity to add two additional receive sites in the future without expanding the voter system. Cost for this project has been estimated at \$1500 to \$1700.

This will benefit the operation of the repeater system in several ways. First, it puts a receiver in the middle of Vigo County to benefit a number of club members living there who use HT's to access the repeater. Second, it puts a receiver several miles farther east. This is a direction that has always been a problem for mobiles accessing the system. Third is a principle which was discovered by military communications personnel and is known as space diversity. Basically this means that if your signal received from a given location is bad, it may not be bad at a second location.

In the future, as funding becomes available, two additional satellite receive sites can be added to the system without expanding the voter. Cost to add these additional sites will vary, but have been estimated to be about \$1200 per site. At this time, there is no plan add these two additional sites.

If you have any questions, or would like additional info regarding this proposed project, please feel free to catch me on the air or send an e-mail to k9hx@arrl.net.

73,

Kevin, K9HX

WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2006

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?

This newsletter will come to you by e-mail in .pdf format unless you specifically request a paper copy below. We encourage you to choose the electronic version because... 1. It costs the Club less to produce and deliver it and... 2. In the electronic version the pictures are in color and it arrives sooner! Of course, you can still make a paper copy on your printer, if you wish.

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 prmt: \$ _____

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

Abbotville Tabletop Exercise

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 2, 3 and 4th mark the dates for this year's round of the Abbotville Tabletop Exercise,

The purpose of the exercise is to give first- responders a chance to experience decision-making *before* such an event actually happens locally. All emergency management personnel are invited to attend, such as local police, fire, school corp., hospital employees, Air National Guard, government officials, airport workers and, of course, ARES. They role-play decision-making based on an imaginary incident presented to them at the time of the simulation. The scenario might involve a highway hazmat incident, a plane crash or perhaps a natural disaster, such as an earthquake. About three to four scenarios are addressed each of the three days. Since each day is a new set of exercises, you only need attend one day's session to get the flavor of the event.

Please contact David Pifer, N9YNF, at n9ynf@arrl.net or 466-1005 for more information.

Annual Amateur Radio Christmas Party

The WVARA is again sponsoring the annual Xmas party on Saturday, December 10. Doors open at 6:30 PM with the feed beginning at 7.

All amateurs, their friends and families are welcome to attend. You need not be a WVARA member. The only prerequisite is an appetite. Again this year it will be a pitch-in with the Club providing the meat and drink. Please bring a dish to pass and an "auction" gift of a value of \$5 or less. CU there!

Santa at the Mall

The WVARA is again sponsoring Santa at the Mall on Saturday, December 17, at Honey Creek Mall. Setup will begin at 10 AM Indiana time (9 AM Illinois time) when the mall opens. John, N9YRX, is again honchoing the project. He needs Santa's on the radio outside the mall, "elves" to operate the radio inside the mall, in approximately the same location as last year and technicians to help with the setup and takedown.

If you can help, please contact John at n9yrx@hotmail.com or catch him on a repeater on 146.685, 145.230 or on the Clark Co. Emergency Services Net on 146.520 simplex on Wednesday nights at 10 PM, (9 PM Illinois time).

VE Testing

TERRE HAUTE: 1st Sunday of even-numbered months
1 PM Indiana 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 -

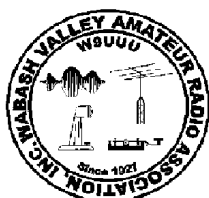
For further information, contact John Van Sandt, N9YRX (217) 826-8821

Dec 4 Terre Haute

Jan 14 Marshall

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

Seasons Greetings



DECEMBER 2005

2005= 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.

