



PO BOX 81
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808 USA
INTERNET: www.w9uuu.org

Location Change Notice

Change in location for December Club Meeting
Friday December 1, 2006

Meeting location will be in a building located at 7th and Idaho Street. This building is located just south of Glas-Col and next to the DeBaun Funeral home on Idaho Street.

This building has an overhead door to Idaho street and will accommodate the easy unloading of auction equipment.

REGULAR EVENTS

Friday, Dec 1 General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Corporate Square, on Ohio St., just east of the Meadows Shopping Center (1st Friday of each month.)
The Board meeting immediately follows the General meeting. Vistors are welcome.

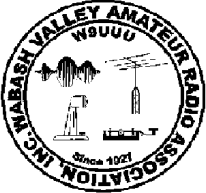
Every Thursday The Club Station is open, 7:00 - 9:00 PM,
Downstairs, Red Cross Bldg., 700 S. 3rd.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS..... Dec. 1

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY..... Dec. 9
(See article, p. 10, for details.)

BRENTLINGER NOMINATION DEADLINE.... Jan. 15
(See the President's Corner, p. 10, for details.)



THE

BANDSPREAD

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

DECEMBER 2006



FIVE YEARS OUT OF THE LAST SIX!

It's with great pleasure that we announce that for the fifth time in six years, a WVARA member has been selected by the Indiana Radio Club Council as Amateur of the Year!

A most deserving candidate, Kevin Berlen's contributions to Amateur Radio over the years is, in our view, exemplary among amateurs of the Wabash Valley. There is a long list of Kevin's contributions to Amateur Radio, the highlights of which we would like to list here.

Kevin has served two different terms as president of the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association and is currently on the board of directors as our Trustee. His recent two-year tenure as president saw the successful settlement of a number of crucial issues.

FREQUENCY CHANGE:

A paperwork snafu and unfortunate propagation conditions suddenly found us in competition with another repeater for our long-held 146.850 frequency. The bold decision to change frequency not only alleviated that situation with a minimum of cost and effort but has resulted in a considerable lessening of RF interference from other non-amateur sources as well.

FIELD DAY LEADERSHIP:

Kevin has served the last two years as the coordinator of our WVARA field day. His leadership has resulted in a significant increase in participation. When Kevin began coordinating this event we were class 6A and had to work to keep all 6 stations on the air. This past year we were class 8A and had operators waiting for a turn to operate.



Donetta, KA9MFW and Kevin, K9HX

Contratulations to Kevin, K9HX and Donetta, KA9MFW. We know first hand about a spouse being gone long hours in service to others. The other person just picks up the slack. So this is for both of you. -ed.

Accordingly, our scores have increased significantly over the past two years.

TAILGATE TO HAMFEST:

The decision to move our outdoor summer tailgate party to an indoor winter event has jump-started the growth of a modest laid-back get-together into a rapidly-growing hamfest.

MAINTAINS NUMEROUS AREA

REPEATERS:

Kevin possesses strong technical skills
Cont'd - See Amateur of the Year, p. 3

December Program

The program this time is the annual "Junque Auction."

Isn't it time for all that stuff to be in somebody else's basement for next year?

OFFICIAL WVARA 2007 SLATE OF OFFICERS

For President: Gary Adams, W9EEU

For Vice Pres: Ginger Downing, WB9ZHC

For Secretary: Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR

For Treasurer: Chuck Procarione, W9COD

For Trustee: Kevin Berlen, K9HX

We also have a request by Jim Osburn, WD9EYB, to be placed on the ballot for Treasurer. This will be done.

We have had no other requests from anyone to be placed on the ballot for any office up to press time.

Gary Wheeler, K9ERE

Chair, Nominations Committee

[For an explanation of guidelines for placing members on the slate, see p. 9]

LOCAL NETS

Tuesday Evening	8:00 p.m. ET
Parke Co Em Svs Net	146.745/R
Wednesday Evening	9:00 p.m. CT
Clark Co. ARES Net	146.520/S
Thursday Evening	9:00 p.m. ET
CAARLA Net	146.685/R
Sunday Morning	8:20 a.m. ET
Vigo Co. ARES Net	146.685/R
Sunday Evening	9:00 p.m. ET
WVARA Net	146.685/R*

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

Minutes



General Meeting Minutes 11/03/06

Vice President Don Pine, K9DRP, called the November 3, 2006, meeting of the WVARA to order at 7:05 p.m. Don also led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present introduced themselves; there were no new or upgraded licenses. **Announcements:** (1) The Board meeting will immediately follow this meeting. (2) CAARLA/QCWA meetings will be held Saturday, November 11, at 12:00 p.m. at the World Gospel Church. (3) VE testing will be Saturday, November 11 at 8:30 a.m. Illinois time, at the Burkybile Law Office in Paris, Illinois. (4) The Club Christmas party will be December 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the World Gospel Church. (5) John, N9YRX, announced that everyone is invited to check into the Clark County Emergency Services net on Wednesday evenings at 9:00 p.m. Illinois time, on 146.52 simplex. (6) The Ft. Wayne Hamfest will be held November 17 and 18. The Amateur of the Year Award will be announced at the Hamfest; the WVARA has a candidate submitted for consideration so everyone who can was encouraged to attend. (7) Dave, N9FMD, announced that the ISU auction will be held this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. (8) The WVARA Hamfest will be held Saturday, March 10. **Secretary's Report:** Debbie, KC9AOR, moved that the Secretary's Report be approved as published in *The Bandspread*; John, N9YRX, seconded the motion and the motion carried. **Treasurer's Report:** Chuck, W9COD, reported we have a balance in all accounts of \$3,708.82. We still have to pay approximately \$300 for liability insurance. Chuck moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented; Ron, AB9GI, seconded the motion and the motion carried. **Old Business:** (1) David, N9YNF, reported on the St. Mary of the Woods event and thanked all those who were willing to help. We provided back-up emergency communication for the events honoring St. Theodore Guerin. We had crews at the Woods Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (2) Kevin, K9HX, announced that the WVARA Hamfest 2007 will be held at the Vigo County Fairgrounds. We need to recruit vendors. He requested that several people going to the Ft. Wayne Hamfest be willing to pass out flyers to several of the vendors present. Anyone interested should see Kevin for further information. (3) John, N9YRX, thanked those who helped with the simulated emergency net last Sunday (October 29). This net was brought up by the Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator as a test of our ability to operate under emergency power. It was suggested that the Clark County pagers could have been activated to facilitate notification of appropriate participants. **New Business:** (1) Gary, K9ERE, gave the report of the Nominating Committee: President - Gary Adams W9EEU; Vice President - Ginger Downing, WB9ZHC; Secretary - Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR; Treasurer - Chuck Procarione, W9COD; Trustee - Kevin Berlen, K9HX; Jim Osburn, WD9EYB has also "thrown his hat in the ring" for Treasurer. (2) Kevin, K9HX, reported that five laptops have been made available for the Club to purchase from Mike, KA9JWZ, at a price of \$40 each to

use for logging during Field Day. Jim, WD9EYB, has tested them to be sure that they will run the appropriate software via the network. The Board voted to approve the purchase pending approval of the membership. Dave, N9FMD, moved to purchase five laptops from Mike at a cost of \$40 each; Kevin, K9HX, seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the membership. Jim, WD9EYB, wants to run N3FJP software for Field Day 2007 and the old computers will not run that program. We can use TR if necessary. The computers have serial ports and will run Windows 98 or better. There will be an article in *The Bandspread* with the approximate specifications. Following the break and the half-pot drawing (won by Steve, NT9T) the Homebrew Program was held. The presenters were John, N9YRX - Portable dual band station, battery operated with a mag mount antenna; Ginger, WB9ZHC - Code oscillator designed especially for use by a young lady; Jim, WD9EYB - SWR meter; Mike, KA9JWZ - Power box and power supply; John, K9GBO - Mobile mounting unit for three radios. The winners were announced in four categories: Originality - John, K9GBO; Creativity - Ginger, WB9ZHC; Technical - Mike, KA9JWZ and Jim, WD9EYB. The award for General Usability - John, N9YRX. Following the program, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter KC9AOR, Secretary.

Board Meeting Minutes 11/03/06

The November 3, 2006, meeting of the WVARA Board was called to order at 9:15 p.m. by Vice President Don Pine, K9DRP. Also present were Treasurer Chuck Procarione, W9COD, Secretary Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR, Board Member at Large Jim Osburn, WD9EYB, Trustee Kevin Berlen, K9HX, Past President Steve Shorter, NT9T and guests David Pifer, N9YNF, Ginger Downing, WB9ZHC, Evalea Siverly, WD9JKC and Gary Wheeler, K9ERE. **Secretary's Report:** Debbie moved that the Secretary's Report be approved as published in *The Bandspread*; Kevin seconded the motion and the motion carried. Chuck presented the **Treasurer's Report.** He reported that we have \$573 in the checking account, \$3,094.06 in the Money Market, and \$41.74 in Petty Cash for a total of \$3,708.82 in all accounts. Chuck moved that the report be approved as presented; Steve seconded the motion and the motion carried. **Old Business:** (1) MOU with Wabash Valley ARES. David, N9YNF, made a few revisions and distributed the revised MOU to those present. He will also send a copy to Gary, W9EEU, the ARRL and to Joe KC9JAC, for their comments. Jim said that he would like to add in the Whereas section "according to the Bylaws/Constitution of the WVARA." Dave will add that phrase. He will also add on the signature page a date line of the ratification date and attach minutes of that meeting. We need to add a legal recall process and add a request of inventory annually according to WVARA Bylaws. (2) Wi-Fi Link: We need to start ordering equipment. Kevin will meet with David, N9YNF, to accomplish that. Ft. Wayne will be a good



place to purchase some of the supplies. (3) Christmas Party: David reported that the Church is available from 3:00 - 10:00 p.m. on December 9. He has the Gathering Room reserved. Those available will meet at 4:00 p.m. to set up and the Decorating Committee will meet at 4:30 to decorate the tables. David will also provide CD Christmas music. It was decided that we will once again do a "dirty" grab bag gift exchange with a \$5 limit on the gift. Gary, K9ERE, will publish an article in Decembers' Bandsread. (4) Hamfest 2007 (Flyers to Ft. Wayne?) It was suggested that we add "Computer Expo" to the flyers. Kevin will draft the flyer and e-mail it to each Board Member. Also note that there will be tailgating permitted after paying the gate fee. The forums will start at 9:00 a.m. and VE testing will be at 11:00 a.m. It was suggested that we add to the flyer that the location is just south of Honey Creek Mall. David, Jim, and Kevin, will distribute flyers to the vendors. Ginger will try to get a food vendor. Kevin will send a notice to be published in QST. (5) Jim gave a report on the Business Plan Committee and the Grant Committee. **New Business:** Field Day location: Chuck and Kevin reported on the Shrine Hill site. The only drawback is no kitchen. There is an excellent open area for antennas and a large shelter. There will be no cost. Camping is available with full water and electricity on site. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Debbie Shorter KC9AOR, Secretary.

New Laptops for Field Day

For Field Day, 2007 we are going to attempt a new wireless duping system. For those who would like to bring their own laptops, here are the criteria from Jim, WD9EYB. -ed.

It has to run the N3FJP network logging program and be able to do so over a wireless network. The N3FJP program can be downloaded here.

<http://www.n3fjp.com/FD.htm>

It says it will run on a Windows 95 machine but I haven't yet succeeded in making that happen. I do know it will run on a Windows 98 or XP machine. I don't think there are any Mac versions available.

I don't know the specific requirements for processor, memory, speed, etc. Downloading the demo version and trying it I think is a good way to see if it will work.

I haven't finalized the wireless network configuration yet because I haven't got the equipment yet. Eventually I will know all of that and will let all know. The wireless network at Field Day will be open so anyone can join the network without a lot of trouble.

If you or anyone has a question about making it work they can contact me at:

wd9eyb1006@wirelessinfield.com or (812) 238-0584. I'm not an expert but I've fiddled with it some and might be able to answer a question.

Thanks,
Jim, WD9EYB

Amateur of the Year Cont'd from p. 1

and is instrumental in maintaining several local repeaters. Currently Kevin is:

- trustee of the 444.350 W9SKI-Skywarn repeater. When the local Illiana Skywarn repeater was in jeopardy of going off the air, Kevin was a key player in helping a local group acquire the system, find a location to relocate the repeater to, and physically moving the repeater equipment;
- trustee and club equipment manager for the 146.685 W9UUU repeater. He is currently leading a project for the WVARA to add remote receiver sites to the club's repeater system. This involves finding available tower space, procuring the necessary equipment, and installing 3 new sites, which will enhance our coverage, especially to the growing number of HT's;
- providing and maintaining a new, high profile repeater, the 145.230 K9HX repeater, of his own;
- trustee of the 147.090 repeater in West Terre Haute;
- on call to help maintain numerous other machines in the 5-county area when his expertise is called upon.

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMATEUR RADIO:

Kevin is also currently a delegate from the WVARA to the Indiana Radio Club Council.

During bouts of afternoon severe weather, and after a hard day's work Kevin can often be found volunteering his time as a Skywarn weather spotter.

Kevin has spent many years as a regular instructor for WVARA-sponsored Amateur Radio license classes.

Kevin is also a certified V.E. in the Wabash Valley.

The Club is indeed fortunate to have members such as Kevin who freely give of their time and talents for the benefit of all amateurs in the Wabash Valley. -ed.

The Bandsread 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	Kevin Berlen, K9HX
Past President	Steve Shorter, NT9T
Board Member at Large	Jim Osburn, WD9EYB

Bandsread Editor: Gary Wheeler, K9ERE
Bandsread Facilitator: Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD
Bandsread Printing: Gary Adams, W9EEU
Bandsread Circulation: Gary Adams, W9EEU, David Pifer, N9YNF

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

DUES are DUE!

It's that time, folks! We rely on you to support the repeater and other projects that serve the Wabash Valley Amateur Community. TNX.

ANNUAL HOMEBREW "SHOW and TELL"

Jim Osburn, WD9EYB - a VHF SWR meter



I built a VHF SWR meter. I found a very nice meter movement at the Bedford Hamfest and was motivated by that purchase to build the meter. For the directional coupler I used one built from printed circuit board material from a QST article, "A Pocket-Size, Direct- Reading VHF SWR Meter" by Bill VanRemmen, KA2WFJ, QST for February 1997. For the enclosure I used one I also found at the Bedford Hamfest. The project is not yet complete.

My project for homebrew was to build a portable self contained 2meter/70 cm rig, complete with antenna, that would be light enough to be carried with one hand. This station can be used as base or crossband repeater in the field. The system has its own cooling system, ground plane, antenna and battery, which can be powered by battery, solar, or AC line.

If you have further questions please let me know.



John Van Sandt, N9YRX
A self-contained 2M/70cm portable, self-powered rig.

Mike Thompson, KA9JWZ - Power Adapter Box



My project is a Power Adapter Box. It's main purpose is connect or adapt a power supply to a device when the you don't have the original power supply for the device. There are multiple ways to connect a power supply via various power jacks or binding posts. The output is connected to the device using binding posts and one of several adapter cables. There are panel meters for monitoring the voltage and current and also test jacks for connecting external VOMs.

Ginger Downing, WB9ZHC

"Feminine" Code Practice Oscillator



The oscillator I built is of a rather simple design consisting of an LM567 Tone Decoder chip, with variable tone and an off/on switch. The practice oscillator was custom made for Alyssa Sills, KC9KEW, as she is learning the code in order to upgrade her recently obtained license. She has been working very hard and doing great so I wanted to reward her for the hard work.

HOMEBREW Cont'd.

John Voigt, K9GB0 - Mobile Radio Mount

I needed to install my dual-band Alinco mobile, a 10M mobile rig and a CB, the latter being used to communicate with another vehicle on a fishing trip to Canada. I needed a multiple radio mounting solution which would fit the configuration of my truck. I checked out some of the commercial products for this application, and found that they were expensive and rather bulky. I decided that I would build one myself. If I need to install a different radio, as long as it fits the general layout, I only need to make a new bracket, and it should bolt into my existing configuration.

If anyone has questions, contact John for the entire step-by-step article. -ed.



Here's how John's truck looked BEFORE he installed the new radio mount. Much improved, John!



QCWA Chapter #204 Minutes

November 11, 2006

The November, 2006, meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by the president, Ron, AB9GI. There were seven full members and six associate members in attendance.

The secretary's report was read by assistant-to-the-secretary treasurer, Gary, K9ERE. Kevin, K9HX, moved that the report be accepted as read and Jim, K9VDQ, seconded. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ray, K9DUR, stated that he had not yet received the Peter 1 DVD. He was told it would be finished soon and arrive mid-November... maybe.

Dave, N9FMD, has not finished his report on monthly attendance. As a preliminary, he did have the following observations:

1. There is no consistency of meeting place.
2. There is no consensus of purpose.
3. There is no consistent program. He suggested that each member be responsible for at least one program per year.

Ray opined that we need a program each month.

Jim, K9VDQ, suggested that we approach each member who did not regularly attend and seek their suggestions.

Steve, NT9T, suggested that we announce the program in the Bandsread. (Gotta have one first).

Ray, announced that the QCWA Listserv was up and running, but that members needed to sign up. They should go to <http://mailman.qth.net/>. Once there look on the left for "Directory of Email lists." Follow it down alphabetically and click on "QCWA 204." There you will find an explanation and list of options.

Ray also announced that Ft. Wayne was next weekend. He also noted that the new Chapter call sign was KC9KDQ, which will be an interim call.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave, N9FMD, gave a brief synopsis of the amateur coverage of the SMW Celebration from his vantage point.

A nominations committee for 2007 officers was formed, consisting of Kevin, K9HX, Steve, NT9T and Gary, K9ERE.

The next meetings of CAARLA and QCWA #204 will be at 6:00 and 6:15 p.m., respectively, at the World Gospel Church, just prior to the WVARA-sponsored Amateur Radio Christmas party.

- Respectfully submitted, Gary, K9ERE, Assistant and General Gofer to the Secretary Treasurer

FCC Releases "Omnibus" Report & Order

New Rules Go Into Effect December 15, 2006

After nearly 2 years, the FCC has released what is commonly being called the "Omnibus" Report & Order. This R&O is the final action on 14 separate petitions presented to the FCC over several years and released as a Notice of Proposed Rule-Making (NPRM) in the spring of 2004. There are a couple of major changes in this R&O, and several minor ones.

The most significant change is in response to the ARRL's "Novice Band Re-Farming" proposal. In short, the Novice sub-bands on 80-meters, 40-meters, & 15-meters are being eliminated & the phone sub-bands are being expanded on 80-meters & 40-meters. Novice & Tech-Plus licensees will be given the entire General-class CW portions of 80m, 40, & 15m. The new lower limits of the phone sub-bands are:

80-meters	40-meters
Extra = 3.600 MHz (increase of 150 kHz)	Extra = 7.125 MHz (increase of 25 kHz)
Advanced = 3.700 MHz (increase of 75 kHz)	Advanced = 7.125 MHz (increase of 25 kHz)
General = 3.800 MHz (increase of 50 kHz)	General = 7.175 MHz (increase of 50 kHz)
15-meters	The frequencies available to Novice & Tech-Plus class licensees for CW operation will be:
Extra = 21.200 MHz (no change)	80-meters = 3.525 MHz to 3.600 MHz
Advanced = 21.200 MHz (no change)	40-meters = 7.025 MHz to 7.125 MHz
General = 21.275 MHz (increase of 25 kHz)	15-meters = 21.025 MHz to 21.200 MHz

There will be no changes to the frequencies available to Novice & Tech-Plus licensees on 10-meters.

The next most significant change is the elimination of the restrictions on external power amplifiers between 24 Mhz and 35 MHz. Manufacturers may now sell amplifiers that can operate on 12-meters and on 10-meters. Also, the definition of an "RF Amplifier Kit" has been removed. Believe it or not, the way the regulations were previously written, selling a single resistor could be interpreted as being a violation of the regulations!

Some of the other changes in the R&O are:

- 1.) Anyone who is a VE will be familiar with an unfair oddity in the regulations. Currently, a VE team can grant credit for the 5 wpm code test to the holder of an expired Novice or pre-1991 Technician class license, but can NOT give credit to the holder of an expired General, Advanced, or Extra class license! This has been fixed by the R&O. VE's will be able to give credit for Element 1 to the holder of any expired license which required a code exam regardless of speed.
- 2.) Previously, in order for a club to apply for a deceased member's call sign before the 2-year wait expired, they had to obtain a letter of consent from a family member after the amateur had died. Under the new rules, an amateur can write a letter stating what club they wish to have apply for their call sign after their death. This was in response to a petition by the QCWA.
- 3.) Auxiliary station operation will be permitted in portions of 2-meters. This was in response to a petition by Kenwood to make it legal for US amateurs to use their SkyCommand system (control your TS-2000 from your 2-meter mobile or hand-held).
- 4.) Spread-Spectrum transmissions will be permitted on 1.25-meters.
- 5.) Image transmissions will be authorized in the data segments of the HF bands if the bandwidth is less than 500 Hz.
- 6.) Retransmission of signals from the International Space Station will be authorized. Previously, this was limited to the Shuttle.
- 7.) The RACES sub-bands are gone. Now RACES operations may take place on any frequency authorized to the control operator.
- 8.) Applicants may no longer file multiple applications for the same vanity call. Some hams were trying to "increase the odds" of their receiving a particular vanity call by mailing several applications on the same day. Since the FCC uses a lottery system to grant vanity call requests received on any given day, if you had 10 apps in the pot, you had 10 times the chance of getting the call. Since the fee is refunded if no vanity call is issued, you had nothing to lose. This will now be a no-no.
- 9.) A couple of minor changes to the VE system: VE teams will no longer have to advertise a session in advance. The 10-day time limit for submitting the paperwork to the VEC is no longer an FCC requirement; however, expect the VEC's to still require it.
- 10.) Finally, one item of interest to those involved in emergency communications. The regulations will now clearly state that there is no prohibition on the type of traffic that may be handled in support of an emergency operation. This means that we can send any type of message, even business communications, if it is necessary to the support of the emergency relief effort.

There are a few other minor changes that will not impact our operations here in the Wabash Valley.

The important thing to remember is: **DO NOT GO OUT & START USING YOUR NEW FREQUENCIES RIGHT AWAY.** The rule changes contained in this R&O will not go into effect until Friday, December 15, 2006.

The expansion of the phone bands into the CW portions of the bands will require adjusting some long-established operating practices. Specifically, many of the National Traffic System CW nets are now in the middle of the phone band. The ARRL is asking for e-mailed comments & suggestions on the operating changes that will have to be made. The deadline for these comments will have passed by the time you read this. The ARRL hopes to have the new band plans published before December 15th, when the new regulations go into effect.

Communications for Operation Guardian Angel

The Canonization Celebration of Mother Theodore Guerin came upon the quiet campus of St. Mary-Of-The-Woods College the weekend of October 21 and 22, 2006. The indicators from previous Canonization Celebrations in the United States indicated we could have between 30,000 and 40,000 people present to be part of the High Mass celebrating the event.

Going into the event there was a known number of about 2000 of the Sisters from the Sisters of Providence plus their guests who would be present at 3 locations on campus: the Church, and 2 additional auditoriums on campus with live video feeds from the Church. Besides that we had no idea how many people would show up. Concerns ranged from basic crowd and traffic control if a large number of people showed up on the little 125 acre campus, to potential terrorist or other threats.

Besides concerns of those coming to visit the campus there were several other events going on as well. The campus was open for business as usual on Saturday with classes, a wedding reception, and other events on campus. St. Mary's-of-the-Woods College is also well known for its "Sunday Brunch," so that would be happening as well as the High Mass at 1:30 p.m., and a concert at 4:00 p.m. plus other normal Sunday events on campus.



Friday afternoon the Vigo County ARES trailer was rolled on site and set up near the Horse Stables on the North end of campus, to be used as a Secondary Communications Post. This was near First Aid Tent 1 and also where the HAZMAT equipment was staged, if needed. Also on Friday, the State of Indiana Mobile Communications Center (MCC) rolled in and set up near the Primary Command and Communications post on the South end of Campus.

The challenges were quickly mounting. A communications plan was drafted and immediately reviewed and adjusted. My roll as the Coordinator of Information Technology and Communications was to pull this all together. The first challenge was that the College campus was more or less in an RF "black hole." A second challenge was to put the various radio systems together into a plan that would work.

Cell phone coverage was extremely hit and miss. Phones that usually lasted days on single charge were drained in a few hours as they continually tried to acquire a signal. Medical teams and the Air-Evac team, who were on call, had to use land line numbers for their contacts since the cell service was marginal.

The entire operation was going to be based on 800 MHz Public Service bands using combinations of the State Wide frequencies and the NPSPAC channels. NPSPAC Direct channels worked fine (simplex) around most of the campus, but when anyone went into any of the 100 plus year old buildings of brick and stone they quickly became marginal. Any of the State talk groups were very rough to use. Standing around with an 800 MHz HT in your hand, on simplex, was great but if you were monitoring on State Wide Mutual Aid 2 which relied on the nearest tower about 10 miles away, one had to step outside in order to successfully hit the tower.



The State of Indiana Mobile Communications Center (MCC)



Diane, W9SMW and Kay, KB9HYH, in the ARES Trailer.



L-R Kay, KB9HYH, Dave, N9FMD, David, N9YNF and Ted, K9SGL

Amateur radio was utilized as a backup communications plan for the primary operations. Additionally we had been granted permission to be on 800 MHz for the event and on several occasions I got called on my 2M HT to tell me they were trying to reach me on 800 MHz, so I would have to step outside in order to talk to dispatch. Additionally we had operators at the MCC, First Aid 1, First Aid 2 and the trailer. On one occasion we called First Aid 1 on 2M and asked them to check the 800 MHz radio because dispatch had been calling them. When our ham operator examined their 800 MHz radio, he adjusted the Volume button on it and it magically began to work.

The operational plan consisted of several segments. A link from the command center to the outside world, law enforcement on campus for parking and traffic, the main call frequency, law enforcement off campus traffic control, force protection, internal security, and Amateur Radio for the aid station links. Those that were already using 800 MHz radios were instructed what channels to use. Those who were still on VHF or UHF had an 800MHz radio assigned to their liaison that would be their link between command and the teams.

Because of the anticipated crowds, volunteers were asked to rally at the City Hall Parking lot in Terre Haute on Saturday and catch a bus to the site. This was done to reduce the total number of vehicles on campus.

Saturday was about as uneventful as you could have it. We worked out a lot of the bugs with the system and minor issues as we went. A WiFi wireless link was established between the MCC and the Sisters of Providence network to provide a means to monitor the security cameras in the facilities over an internet connection. The WiFi link was possible through the loan of equipment of the Office of Information Technology Networking Group at Indiana State University. The visitors to the campus on Saturday were up in numbers but only in the range of a few dozen people at any one time.

Saturday night some of us bunked down for the night. Others prepared for the following day. Roads were blocked to enforce traffic control and a security sweep was done of the area. Sunday morning came and activity began. In stark contrast to the clear warm weather on Saturday, Sunday was windy, cold and wet. The wind and rains from over night turned the tent at First Aid 1 into a wadded up mess across the horse pasture, its final resting place.

As the day progressed it became clear that the predictions on the number of people who would attend was way off. Basically the numbers were over inflated. Based on our estimate it was about 2000 people. By the time High Mass started at 1:30 p.m., a number of stations and people were being released. By 3:00 p.m., we were starting to tear down the Ham Radio setup and the command center. Nearly everyone was on the road headed for the barn around 4:00 p.m.

While the overall event was not anything as big as anticipated, it was a great opportunity to work with everyone for a 48 hour period. Most exercises only last a few hours and are very intense. This event allowed us to work together and get accustomed to each others capabilities.

Communications had a number of weak points but all were resolvable. Some times it meant knowing you had to step outside to use the radio and other times it meant trying something different.

Amateur Radio was used a number of times to resolve these gaps and it was pointed out by several people how it was good to have Amateur Radio on site to help resolve those issues. While there we a few times I had to find a "hot spot" with my radio, generally speaking I could hear net control the entire time and was able to talk most of the time.

David L. Pifer N9YNF Information Technology and Communications Coordinator Task Force 7

OTHER QUOTES FROM OUR ESTEEMED LEADER:

"A 700CC Quad runner goes really really really fast...."

"I would prefer the Quad Runner over the Gator Any Day...."

L - R
N9FMD
K9SGL
K9HX
N9YNF
W9SMW



Choosing Members for WVARA Office

The WVARA Board of Directors is definitely an open system, as evidenced by the many new people who have been elected to the Board recently. We are always looking for new people who can and will serve. We also feel, that it's extremely important to have some guidelines for choosing nominees for the official slate. The use of a set of criteria when choosing candidates helps to insure that the members of our board are the most dedicated and capable individuals possible.

Here is a list of criteria that the chair of the Nominations Committee considers important when putting together a slate: (They're kinda common-sense, actually.)

1. Does this person already hold an office on the Board and has he or she done a good job in discharging the responsibilities of that office? The Nominations Committee would usually give them preference if they sought re-election or election to another position.
2. If not already an officer, has this person taken responsibility for activities sponsored by the Club in the past?
3. Is this person qualified to handle the position, i.e. if for treasurer, is he or she capable with a spreadsheet?
4. Does this person actually want the job in question?
5. Is this person likely to have the time to discharge his or her responsibilities? Many of us work in order to support our radio habit. Jobs, along with family responsibilities don't always permit us time for other major responsibilities.
6. Is there a likelihood that this person can cooperate with others, generally speaking? The WVARA board philosophy supports the idea of group responsibility for accomplishment of Club goals. For instance, the Vice President is constitutionally given the task to provide a program for each meeting. However, in practice, the entire board usually suggests ideas for programs and also assists in organizing them.

A candidate need not qualify in all areas above, nor are the above guidelines necessarily the sole criteria for making a decision, but we think the above considerations are important. As a reminder, the official slate is not a directive to the membership as to whom to vote for in the election in December. It is merely a list of what the committee considers to be the best, willing candidate for each of the five offices. Other candidates may be qualified to run for these offices as well. By simply making their wish known early enough to the Nominations Committee, or the president, they will be placed on the ballot along with the slate candidate for that office. Or, of course, any member can be nominated from the floor, according to *Robert's Rules of Order* on the night of the election. The membership, by their vote in the December election, must then decide who is the best person for each office.

With the advent of 501C(3) status, we're entering a whole new era in Club history. If you have the time and talent to be a Board member, we encourage any and all members to make their interest known. Get involved. Participate in Club activities. Attend Board meetings. We need qualified leadership. It's up to you. -ed.

This year's Nominations committee consisted of Gary Wheeler, K9ERE, David Pifer, N9YNF, Keith Reedy, WA9DRO and John Voigt, K9GBO.

WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2007

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 pmt: \$ _____

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

The President's Corner

It is hard to believe that this year is just about past. In just a few days we will be meeting at World Gospel Church for our annual Christmas party. Again this year the Cub will provide the meat and drinks with the rest of the meal being a carry in. We will also be having the grab bag gift exchange with a maximum cost of \$5.00. The gift exchange provided us with a lot of fun last year and I would anticipate as much fun this year.

It is also time for Brentlinger Award nominations for 2007. Nominations for the award must be submitted in writing, in a sealed envelope, to the president no later than January 15, 2007. Please mark on the envelope that it is a Brentlinger nomination. Don't procrastinate; sit down and write a nomination letter and get it turned in well before the due date. We will look forward to adding another deserving person to the long list of distinguished recipients of the award in March.

Have a great Holiday season!!

73,
Gary, W9EEU

Annual Christmas Party

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 9. It's the annual Amateur Radio Christmas party, sponsored by the WVARA, at the World Gospel Church.

Setup and decorating will begin at 4 p.m. If you can help just show up at 4.

The Club will provide meat and drinks. The rest is a pitch-in, so bring a covered dish and we'll eat well - we always do.

We'll begin eating at 6:30 and the gift exchange will follow that. All amateurs and their families are welcome. C U there!

NOTE: We would like to thank David Pifer, Kevin Berlen, John Voigt and perhaps others at the Ft. Wayne Hamfest for contributing photos to this issue. -ed.

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

PARIS: 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months

8:30 AM Illinois time

Burkybile Law Office

15175 US Highway 150

Paris, IL 61944

- Walk-Ins Welcome -

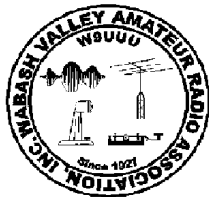
For Info Contact: Terry Hackett, KB9ZVA, (217) 465-4884 or Ray Andrews, K9DUR, (812) 535-3222

December 3 Terre Haute

January 13 Paris

Seasons Greetings

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



DECEMBER 2006

2006= 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.

