

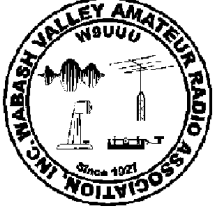
REGULAR EVENTS

Friday
Feb 29 * General Meeting: 7:00 P.M., 1st Friday of Mo.
7th & Idaho, just south of the Main Glas-Col
building. Talk-in - 146.685 RPT; PL 151.4
The Board meeting immediately follows the
General meeting. Visitors are welcome.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Illiana Skywarn WX Spotters' Class Feb 25
Clark Co. WX Spotters' Class Feb 26
Parke Co. WX Spotters' Class Feb 26
Paris (Edgar Co.) WX Spotters' Class Mar 10
Note: See more Spotters' Class info on page 5
Brentlinger Award Dinner Mar 29



THE

BANDSPREAD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.

MARCH 2008



THE WVARA HAMFEST IS UPON US!

The 2008 WVARA Terre Haute Hamfest is less than two weeks away! This year, we will be holding the event on Saturday, March 8 and for the 2nd consecutive year, at the Vigo Co. Fairgrounds. It will be indoors, rain or shine! Table setup begins at 6 P.M. Friday, March 7 and continues at 6 A.M. Saturday morning. Doors open to vendors at 7 A.M. and to the public at 8. A talk-in will be available on 146.685 (PL 151.4).

Admission is \$5 (12 and under free). Tables will again be free this year. Outdoor tailgating will be permitted after the \$5 entry fee. There will be hourly drawings for door prizes, forums at 9 and 10A.M. plus ARRL VEC coordinated testing at 11:00 A.M. This year we have secured a quiet location for the forums and testing.

In order for this event to be a success we need your help. This year, Dave, N9FMD, will handle the talk-in and Jerry, KC6OND, will coordinate the ticket sales at the gate. They will need assistance, so if you would like to help, contact them.

And don't forget afterward! That's teardown/cleanup time. Following the CAARLA and QCWA meetings, we will need to tear down tables and straighten up the facility. We will need as many people as possible to help with this activity. We will all be tired by then so we'll need a lot of people to make it go fast so we can all go home early.

Your help will make this hamfest a success and continue to help it grow. Please contact me if you would like to help or... you can wait to be drafted.

Check out the hamfest flyer on the Club website at: <http://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest2008.pdf> for more info.

Thanks and 73,
Kevin, K9HX, 2008 Hamfest Chairman

NOAA All-Hazard Radios Are Again Available



First Financial Bank, in conjunction with WTHI, is again offering NOAA All-Hazards radios. They are the same ones offered last year, made by Midland. They are \$29.95 each and are available at the following First Financial locations:

- Main Branch at 6th & Wabash
- Plaza North (inside, not the drive-thru)
- Meadows • W. Terre Haute • Springhill

The WVARA, ARES and Illiana Skywarn recommend these radios because of their potential to save lives and their reasonable cost as compared to others of equal quality. They are currently available even though WTHI has not yet begun to advertise them.

This Month's Program

A field trip to TRW in Marshall is our March program. A regular business meeting will also be held there.

There are several 'ground rules' for those attending the field trip.

- No one under 18 is allowed.
- No cameras, including cell phones.
- No open-toed shoes or high heels.
- No tobacco use.

Arrival time at TRW is the normal Club meeting time of 7 P.M.. Car-pooling is encouraged and there will be a talk-in on 146.685 RPT.

*** Note: Meeting is one week early this time!**

It's Time for Brentlinger Dinner Reservations

The secret committee has met and Gary, W9EEU, has assured us that there will be a Brentlinger Award dinner. It's at Fire Mountain again this year and for those who may not have previously attended, it's buffet-style so you can choose exactly what you want to eat.

The date is March 29 and reservations are requested. Please send a check for \$13.50 times the number in your party to P.O. Box 81, Terre Haute, IN 47808-0081 -or- see that the envelope is hand-delivered to Gary, W9EEU or Nick, KC9JSY. A really good time to take care of this with minimum difficulty would be at the next Club meeting, at TRW. Remember, **Your check is your reservation.**

Arrival time is 6 P.M. Please be prompt as Gary will need to be at the entrance to authorize your entry so that you don't have to pay (again).

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 that night on 146.595/S



General Meeting Minutes 02/08/08

The February 8, 2008 meeting of the WVARA was called to order at 7 P.M. by Club President Gary Adams, W9EEU. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Ginger Downing, WB9ZHC, those present introduced themselves. There were three people present who had passed exams for upgrades. They were John T. Bell, KB9PIE, Doyle Hudgens, K9DEH, and Gene Mayfield, KC9LBN. **Announcements:** (1) The Board Meeting will immediately follow this meeting. (2) Mary Pifer, KB9NLJ, announced that the CAARLA meeting will be held this Saturday at noon in the World Gospel Church. Bring your own lunch. Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD, announced the QCWA will meet at Pizza City at 1 P.M. this Saturday. (3) VE testing will be held at the Hamfest on March 8. There will also be VE testing at the World Gospel Church on February 18, at 6:30 P.M. (4) Dues need to be paid. (5) The Brentlinger Dinner will be held at Fire Mountain located south of Terre Haute on Route 41. Your check for \$13.50 will be your reservation. (6) The March Club meeting will be held a week early, on February 29, due to the Hamfest. The meeting will be a tour of the TRW Facility in Marshall, IL. No cameras, cell phones with cameras, or open-toed shoes or high heels will be allowed. No tobacco in or near the building will be allowed at the event. The Club will meet at TRW at 6 P.M. Illinois time, 7 P.M. Indiana time for the tour. (7) Kevin Berlen, N9HX, coordinator of the Hamfest, stated that help will be needed for setup and teardown. Set up will begin at the fairgrounds at 6 P.M. Friday. Kevin stated gate help is needed and Jerry Boling, KC6OND, volunteered for that job. Ron Young, AB9GI, is in charge of obtaining forums for the Hamfest. (8) There will be a Weather Spotters' Class at World Gospel Church on February 25, 2008 at 7 P.M. Setup help is needed at 6 P.M. (9) John VanSandt, N9YRX, will organize a group of hams to provide the Boy Scouts with a Ham Radio demonstration at Camp Wildwood this Saturday beginning at 1 P.M. (10) The Parke County Repeater group will have classes on March 18. See Chuck Procarione, W9COD, for more information. The **Secretary's Report** was approved as published in *The Bandspread*. **Treasurer's Report:** Nick Vinardi, KC9JSY, reported the balance in all accounts is \$12,942.84 and moved the report be accepted. Ray seconded the motion; motion carried. **Old Business:** Kevin moved the Club purchase a Gap Titan Dx antenna and hardware with maximum cost not to exceed \$500.00. Doyle, K9DEH, seconded the motion, motion carried. The budget was presented. John Van Sandt, N9YRX, moved to accept the budget. Ray, K9DUR, seconded the motion, motion carried. There was a break during which Ray, K9DUR, won the half-pot. Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD, presented the program for the evening on pagers. Dave noted the pagers are being used by hams for alerting emergency service people to weather alerts, warnings, and events important to the membership. Following an opportunity for questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

-Respectfully submitted, Bette Young, KC9GWT, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 02/08/08

The February 8, 2008, meeting of the WVARA Board was called to order at 8:22 P.M. by Club President Gary Adams, W9EEU. Also present were Vice President Ginger Downing, WB9ZHC; Treasurer Nick Vinardi, KC9JSY; Secretary Bette Young, KC9GWT; Board Members at Large Chuck Procarione, W9COD and Ray Andrews, K9DUR. Guests were Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD; Gary Wheeler, K9ERE; Steve Shorter, NT9T and Ron Young, AB9GI. The **Secretary's Report** was approved as published in *The Bandspread*. **Treasurer's Report:** Nick reported there was a total of \$12,942.84 in all accounts and moved the report be accepted. Chuck seconded the motion. Motion carried. **Old Business** (1) The subject of WIFI was brought up. Chuck said he will see about it. (2) Kevin stated he hopes to have the repeater functional by April. (3) There are two commercial vendors confirmed for Hamfest. They are Philshamradiostore.com and Steve Zohos Amateur Radio Accessories. Setup for the Hamfest will be at 6 P.M. Friday, March 7 and again at 6 A.M. Saturday, March 8. Jerry Boling, KC6OND, will take the gate and Dave Littlejohn will be at the Club table and handle the talk-in. Dave Pifer, N9YNF, will make the tickets. The food vendor will be the one the Fair Grounds Board requires the Club to use. **New Business:** (1) Kevin moved the Dayton bus prices remain the same as last year, members \$35.00 and non-members \$40.00 with the cutoff date being eliminated. Chuck seconded the motion. Motion carried. (2) Kevin stated he has an offer for the remaining computers not issued to club members. The price offered was \$50.00 per computer. The general feeling of the Board was to offer the computers to the members again but delete the requirement that they be used for Ham Radio. (3) Kevin attended the Terre Haute Radio Club meeting in January for which he is a trustee. The THRC now has about 10 members and inquired about joining it with the WVARA. The THRC has three operating repeaters. The Board asked Kevin to talk with THRC members to get more direction regarding their expectations about the upkeep of the repeaters. (4) Dave, N9YNF, has a new calendar program for the website which can be updated online. It was decided those having access to this program would be Board members plus Gary, K9ERE. (5) Nick will make his new rig available for the Equipment Committee to inspect prior to ordering one for the Club station. The Committee will meet at the Club Station on February 21 at 7 P.M. to consider this rig. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:21 P.M. -Respectfully submitted, Bette Young, KC9GWT, Secretary



Sorry I can't reply to any emails today, something crashed on my computer. -CcRider

TNX to N9YRX for the contribution. -ed.

Hey Chuck! How much ya chargin' for coax these days?

After listening to many conversations on the repeater it's clear that a number of our members are local merchants. That is, they deal commercially with the public, some of whom are hams.

While we have yet to hear any conversations that actually violate federal law against doing business over the air, we've heard a few which have come uncomfortably close. This could especially be a problem for someone like Chuck, W9COD, for example, who actually sells Amateur Radio related equipment. But it applies even to non ham-related items.

The FCC rules in this regard are applied fairly liberally nowadays but we don't want to put any local merchants in an awkward position. An inquiry as to when Chuck might plan to be in the store at any given time is always okay as is a general discussion of equipment that someone might need for a project. Where it perhaps begins to get into a questionable area might be asking him if he has a specific item in stock or if your order is in. A simple, "Do I need to come to see you?" would get around this. Better yet, a cell phone call to him would solve the problem if you don't want to wait until you or he gets home.

We don't think that Chuck or any other merchant wants to stop talking Amateur Radio on the air. But let's not put them in a compromising position. As the old saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!" —ed.

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	Ginger Downing, WB9ZHC
Secretary	Bette Young, KC9GWT
Treasurer	Nick Vinardi, KC9JSY
Trustee	Kevin Berlen, K9HX
Board Member at Large	Chuck Procarione, W9COD
Board Member at Large	Ray Andrews, K9DUR

Publications:

Bandspread Editor:	Gary Wheeler, K9ERE
Bandspread Facilitator:	Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD
Bandspread Printing:	Gary Adams, W9EEU
eBandspread Posting:	David Pifer, N9YNF

Submissions: e-mail the editor at k9ere@earthlink.net
or mail to P.O. Box 81, Terre Haute, IN 47808-0081

Contact our Webmaster, David Pifer, N9YNF n9ynf@arrl.net to join our **listserv** or if you have a problem receiving the **eBandspread**.

Sunday Night Net Manager, Kay Brentlinger, KWOLF



Chapter 204, QCWA News

Members of local QCWA Chapter 204 met at Pizza City Saturday to start planning participation in up-coming summer activities. Topping that list will be an outside demonstration station providing local operations in the spring QCWA national contest and a working classic radio station operating at this year's WVARA Field Day site. A priority for the year will continue to be recruiting and retention and increased activities are expected to help that cause. The March meeting will be held at the WVARA Hamfest location. Time will be between noon and 1 P.M.

-Dave Littlejohn, President, Chapter 204

Ham Radio and the Scouts

We had an invitation by Joe, KC9MLL, to help the Boy Scouts earn their merit badges for communications. Jumping at the chance was Jerry, KC6OND, Gene, KC9LBN, Bill, KC9KJQ and John, N9YRX. We arrived about 1:00 to see an anxious bunch of scouts eating lunch. First things first - we had to eat with them. Soon after, Jerry, Bill and Gene went to a picnic table where Gene threw out formula, some wire along with odds and ends and hardware from Jerry. The boys were told to build a 20-meter dipole, string it in a tree and run coax. Everything was completed and the SWR check showed a perfect match. The match was so close, in fact, that N9YRX looked at the radio and when the SWR meter did not move we thought the radio had no output. A check of power output showed a full 100 watts, however.

While the boys were building the dipole, John was setting up a 40-meter station on emergency power using a generator. All stations were up and operational in less than an hour, including one dipole made from scratch.

Once everything was set up, the fun began. On 40 meters all the boys talked to a ham in Birmingham Alabama. Jim, KB4NOQ, took time from a project he was working on to work us through some rough band conditions at the beginning. Jim hung in there to give the boys a thrill. There is no shortage of gentlemen in this service!!

Next was 20 meters. Jerry snagged a guy in contest mode. He stopped his contesting and talked to the boys with great enthusiasm. He even asked for a troop patch (he collects them).

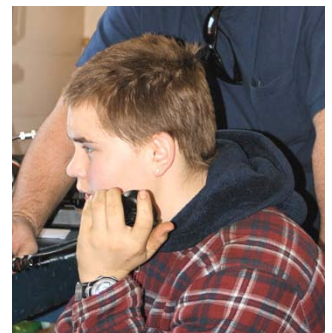
Next was the 2-meter station that Bill, KC9KJQ set up. The demonstration for local communications was a total success with hams in the area.

Everyone went home happy with scouts dreaming of ham licenses and for us, another exercise in setting up emergency stations was a success.

John, N9YRX

See accompanying photos, next page.

Boy Scout / Ham Radio Photos



Ryves Hall ARC is currently on hold, as repairs are considered for several roof-mounted antennas, including the Gap Titan, damaged during recent storms.

Although actual visits to the roof are still pending, it appears from the ground that mast sections failed in the wind, leaving the actual antennas undamaged.



The main tower arrays at the home QTH of John, N9YRX, was also damaged in the same storm.

While the antennas seem to be okay and still operable, the combined wind loading was too much for the vertical mast right at the tower neck. It awaits some fairer weather for the repair.



EDITORIAL:

A careful analysis of the past few years plainly shows that severe storms are occurring across an ever-increasing portion of the calendar year. And it's only a matter of time before the kind of disaster we saw recently, as close to us as Evansville and Spencer, occurs somewhere in the Illiana Skywarn coverage area. Everyone needs to prepare now!

If it even needs to be said, then here, we'll say it: "The Shield" is a JOKE! It always has been a joke and was always meant to be a joke.

But severe weather safety is *no* joke. Do you have a safe shelter to go to in your house? Do your children know where it is? Do you have a NOAA all-hazards radio? Do you have emergency power for your rig? Do you have emergency stores of food and water?

Of course, you'll probably never need these things... until you really need them... then what? - ed.

Illiana Skywarn WX class

Monday, Feb 25, World Gospel Church
IN 46 & Gardendale Rd. (block south of U.S. 40)
Terre Haute, IN
Setup 6 P.M. Volunteers needed!
Program: 7-9 P.M.
For more info, call 466-4899 or 877-4371
Talk-in 146.685 rpt.

Clark Co. WX class

The Clark County EMA would like to invite members of the public to attend an Annual WX Spotter Update (formerly the Basic Class) This training is open to the public.

Time: Tuesday February 26, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Location: Martinsville Fire House.

The training will be presented by NWS, Lincoln, IL.

WX Spotter numbers are expected to be assigned and mailed to individuals who attend the training.

TXN to Mike, N9GIK

From <http://www.clarkcountyil.org/esda.htm>

For more info, call John Van Sandt, 217-826-8821

Parke Co. WX class

Feb. 26, 2008, 7:00PM

Vermillion Co. EOC

259 Vine St., Clinton, IN

You can call me if you have any questions.

Kirt E. Lowry, K9KSA

Vermillion County Emergency Management Agency

Office 765-832-5500 - Fax 765-832-5512 - Cell 812-208-5275

Edgar Co. WX class

The Paris, IL Weather Spotters' class will be held March 10, 2008, 6:30 P.M., C.T., at the Paris VFW, 601 Court Street. To register ahead of time so as to receive your certificate that night, call (217) 466-3180 between 8 and noon. Talk-in 146.685 rpt.

WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2008

Please complete this form and include it with your dues. 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 WVARA membership _____ New Member?

ARES member? QCWA member? RACES 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 earlier! Of course, you can still make a paper copy of it 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?

Please add \$5 per family member above to the Single rate below. To include ARRL membership, see a current QST for the amount.

Dues options: Single (\$20) Family (Single + \$5 per family member) Add 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 as well. See QST.

*Club gets a rebate from the ARRL!



The President's Corner

The annual Brentlinger Award banquet is just around the corner. The Brentlinger Award was established in 1947 in recognition of Bill Brentlinger and Jack Brentlinger. Annually nominations for the Brentlinger Award are accepted, and a committee reviews the nominations with respect to the contributions made to ham radio by those nominated. The recipient of the award is a well kept secret and will be announced at the banquet. You can see a list of the past recipients on the club web site (w9uuu.org). We have a presentation planned for the evening in addition to the presenting of the award. Plan on attending the banquet on March 29 and take part in a fun evening.

It's not too soon to purchase your tickets for the Dayton Bus. The price of the tickets will be the same as last year (what a deal). If you have been to Dayton you certainly want to go again, and if you have not been to Dayton, you must go. It is certainly an event like no other for those involved in ham radio. The club treasurer, Nick (KC9JSY), has the tickets. You can contact Nick directly, or mail your order to club PO box and Nick will get your tickets to you.

73,
Gary, W9EEU

VE TESTING

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA:

1st Sunday of even-numbered months;

1 P.M., Indiana time

**Glas-Col Annex,
Corner of 7th & Idaho**

For further info, contact:

Ray Andrews, K9DUR, (812) 535-3222

PARIS, ILLINOIS:

2nd Saturday of...

Jan., May, Jul., Sep., Nov;

8:30 A.M. Illinois time

**Burkybile Law Office
15175 U.S. Highway 150**

For further info, contact:

Terry Hackett, KB9ZVA, (217) 465-4884

WALK-INS WELCOME!

**March 8 Hamfest, Vigo
Co. Fairgrounds**

April 6 Terre Haute

DON T FORGET! THE MARCH CLUB MEETING IS A WEEK EARLY THIS TIME (FEB 29)! SEE FURTHER DETAILS ON PAGE 1 UNDER "THIS MONTH S PROGRAM."

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



March 2008

2008= 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.