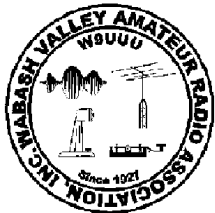


REGULAR EVENTS

Friday
Dec. 5
General Meeting: 7:00 P.M., 1st Friday of Mo.
1715 S. 8th St., just east 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.



THE

BANDSPREAD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Evansville Hamfest, 8 A.M. to 1 P.M.
[Vanderburgh Co. 4-H Fairgrounds](#), Saturday, Nov. 29
Talk-In 145.150- ,146.925- & 443.925+ (all 107.2 tone)
WVARA Xmas Party (see article, p. 2) Dec. 13
Brentlinger Award deadline (see article, p. 2) Jan. 15



DECEMBER 2008

SKYWARN/ARES HAS A PARTY!

Months of prayers and planning came together on October 25th, at the WMGI tower site, just west of West Terre Haute. This tower site is home to the 145.230 W9SKI, Skywarn repeater. This would be the day when we would hopefully improve the performance of the repeater.

Our problems began somewhere around 18 months ago, when we noticed that the repeater's range was down some. Kevin, K9HX, took a look and told us that it was indeed down some, maybe as much as 40 percent. For some reason there was a great deal of de-sense in either the antenna or hardline. The problem was compounded on February 5th of this year, when a strong winter storm with winds measured at 82 miles per hour on the ground, made matters worse by creating an intermittent problem, where signals at times would decrease even more.

By August, when the storms were pretty much at a minimum, we knew that if we were going to change antennas this year we were going to need to do something pretty quickly.

It was already too late in the year to plan a fund raiser to get the \$600 we would need to buy the new Decibel Products DB-224 to replace the old antenna currently on the tower. But then some folks who understood Skywarn's importance stepped up to provide the money that was needed. Soon the Antenna was ordered and within a few days it had arrived.

Now came the hard part - the actual antenna replacement. But it all started to come together pretty easily.

First Bob Anderson, WB9RRX, agreed to make the climb and Jerry Boling, W9TWR, agreed to assist Bob. Kevin and

I were already on board so then the plan began come together.

We all had breakfast together at 8 A.M. on Saturday morning, October 25th, because all good activities start and end with food. Afterward we went to the tower site and got to work.



In addition to the aforementioned, others who showed up to help in one way or another were:

Dave, WT9I Dan, W9OOT
Ken, W9KLM Brad, KC9GUR
Ben, KC9FPO Gene, N9NJ
Gary, K9ERE (who took staff photos)

Two old antennas were removed and the new antenna was placed at some- where above 400 feet. Bob and Jerry were on the tower in the wind for about 6 hours and kept us all on the ground very busy. In just over 6 hours, the new antenna was up, the climbers were down, tools were put away and we were out of there for, you guessed it, more food.

I want to thank those of you who gave of your money and your time. Because you cared enough to do what you could do, lives will be saved and tell me, how can you put a price on that?

Keith Reedy, WA9DRO
Illiana Skywarn Coordinator

For more photos, see pp. 4 & 5

2009 PROPOSED WVARA OFFICER SLATE

For President: Gary Adams, W9EEU
For Vice Pres: Ray Andrews, K9DUR
For Treasurer: Nick Vinardi, N9WG
For Secretary: Bette Young, KC9GWT
For Trustee: Kevin Berlen, K9HX

Because our bylaws require a written ballot, if you decide you are willing to run for a position prior to election night, please let us know so that we can add you to the ballot.

And, of course, nominations from the floor will be accepted on election night itself.

- David L. Pifer - N9YNF n9ynf@arrl.net

This Month's Program

The highlight of the December meeting will be the annual

CLUB ELECTION!

Local Nets

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

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



General Meeting Minutes 11/07/08

The November meeting of the WVARA was called to order at 7:00 P. M. by Kevin Berlen, K9HX. Kevin also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Club members introduced themselves. David Ewing, KC9OKE, is a new Tech and Jim Mailloux, KC9OHQ, upgraded to a General license. **Announcements:** (1) Board meeting will follow this meeting. (2) CAARLA will meet Saturday, November 8 at World Gospel Church at noon. Bring a sack lunch. QCWA meeting is to be announced at a later date. (3) To order Club logo items, see Ron Young, AB9GI. (4) The Club Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 13, at World Gospel Church. Gather at 6:00 P.M., with eating to begin at 6:30 P.M. Bring a \$5 wrapped gift to play Dirty Gift exchange. The Club will provide meat and drink. (5) A General upgrade class is being formed. **Secretary's Report:** The secretary's report was accepted as printed in *The Bandspread*. **Treasurer's Report:** Nick Vinardi, N9WG, reported a total of \$8198.07 in all accounts and moved the report be accepted. Ken Hauptli, W9VKD, seconded the motion. Motion carried. There was no old business. **New Business:** Sonny Haumesser, KE9IX, presented the nominating committee report. Elections will be held during the December 5 meeting of the WVARA. During the break Steve Shorter, NT9T, won the half-pot drawing. This was Homebrew night and three presentations were given by John Swez, KC9JPZ, Mike Thompson, KA9JWZ, and Chuck Procarione, W9COD. All were interesting. The meeting ended at 8:10 P.M. -Respectfully submitted, Bette Young, KC9GWT, Secretary.

Board Meeting Minutes 11/07/08

The November 7, meeting of the WVARA Board was called to order by Kevin Berlen, K9HX at 8:24 P.M. Other officers present were Nick Vinardi, N9WG, Treasurer, and Bette Young, KC9GWT, Secretary. Chuck Procarione, W9COD, Member at Large, Joe Cloutier, KC9JAC, Steve Shorter, NT9T and Ron Young, AB9GI were also present. **Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's report was accepted as printed in *The Bandspread*. **Treasurer's Report:** Nick reported a total of \$8198.07 in all accounts and moved the report be accepted. Chuck seconded the motion. Motion carried. **Old Business:** (1) WiFi Link work will begin tomorrow according to Kevin. (2) The first part of the repeater upgrade will also begin tomorrow. (3) The estate sale is on hold due to the illness of Ray Andrews, K9DUR. (4) Chuck has put the tower the Club has for sale on eBay. **New Business:** (1) Christmas party plans are the same as last year. Mary Pifer, KB9NLJ, and Debbie Shorter, KC9AOR, will decorate tables. Chuck may be cooking and there will be a \$5.00 dirty gift exchange which is optional. Gather at 6 P.M. with eating to begin at 6:30 P.M. (2) Chuck moved the club look into owning our own domain name. Nick seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

WVARA Annual Christmas Party

It's time again for the annual WVARA Xmas Party. As in the past few years, it is a pitch-in and a "dirty gift exchange". In case you don't know what that is, it's simple. You bring a \$5 gift wrapped as a present. Numbers are assigned to participants. As each successive person is called, they may go up and pick a present from under the tree. OR... you may go 'steal' someone else's present. There are more rules, but that's basically it. And, by the way, you are not required to participate in the exchange.

The location is the same too: World Gospel Church, S.R. 46 and Gardendale road. Doors open at 6 P.M. with the eats beginning around 6:30. Please bring a covered dish and an appetite. —ed.

The 2009 Brentlinger Award

Nominations for the 2009 Brentlinger Award are now being accepted! Each year a secret committee, appointed by the president, convenes around the middle of January to review all nomination letters received by the January 15 deadline. They weigh the accomplishments of the nominees as stated in the letters. They also consider the number of letters written for a given nominee (unless they all say the same thing). Petitions are considered as one single letter since only one person actually felt strongly enough to sit down and write the letter. Letters detailing the person's accomplishment(s) are given much more weight than a simple "I think he deserves the award" kind of letter.

Before the Christmas rush is upon us, this might be the time to sit down and begin that letter. It doesn't have to be perfectly written the first time. Just concentrate on the person's accomplishments. They can be accomplishments for the previous year or for service over a period of years. Then let it sit for a while. Maybe you will remember some additional points to add.

Later, after all the "meat" of the article is complete, re-write it into it's final draft. And don't forget to re-read it after you think you're done. Spell checkers are wonderful but they aren't perfect. When you're satisfied, mail it to P.O. Box 81, Terre Haute, IN 47808-0081 and write "Brentlinger Nomination" in the lower left corner of the envelope.

The president will accumulate these letters, still sealed, and forward them to the secret committee who will make the secret decision. Then comes the best part.

Sometime in the middle of March the Club will get together at some eating location for the Brentlinger Award dinner and the award will probably be given! We say 'probably' because the committee reserves the right to determine that none of the nominees deserve the award that year, but this has seldom been the case. In either event, we get to do what we do best... *eat!*

Oh, and by the way, if you have written nomination letters in previous years and your nominee was not selected, we invite you to submit it again. It may stand a better chance this time. In any case, don't forget, the deadline for receipt of the nomination letters is midnight, Thursday, January 15, 2009. —ed.



November 14 - 15 marked this year's Fort Wayne Hamfest. A number of local hams attended this year and as has been the norm recently, the WVARA entered a nomination for Indiana Ham of the Year.

This year, it was Steve Shorter, NT9T, pictured below with YL Debbie, KC9AOR. While he was not chosen as this year's recipient, we can be proud to have had Steve as our candidate. We think he's number 1! -ed.



Our own Gary, W9EEU, presents the Indiana Outstanding Amateur of the Year award to Steve Carmean, K9DY at Ft. Wayne.



TNX to Dave, N9YNF, for the photos on this page!



That looks like Jeff, W9TLT, WITH N9YRX and W9EEU!

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, N9WG
Trustee	Kevin Berlen, K9HX
Board Member	Chuck Procarione, W9COD
at Large	
Board Member	Ray Andrews, K9DUR
at Large	

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@arrrl.net to join our **listserv** or if you have a problem receiving the **eBandspread**.

Sunday Night Net Manager, Kay Brentlinger, KWOLF

Skywarn Antenna Party

See lead article, front page for basic information.



Remember, these guys are over 400 feet up!



Ken and Gene watch the monitor.



Bob climbs out onto the new antenna base.



Two old antennas come down.



One new antenna goes up.



Two climber who feel old right now, climb down after over six hours up there.



Not bad looking for having been up there for 30 years!



Here's the power for lowering and raising the antenna systems. Too bad there wasn't an elevator for the tower workers.



Mud plus one truck that needs to go up-hill can mean only one thing. Okay, 1,2...

DEUCES WILD DUATHLON



Mike and his laptop power adapter. Converts anything to what you need when you don't have the right adapter.

HOMEBREW NIGHT



John Swez and his PIC Blinker kit.



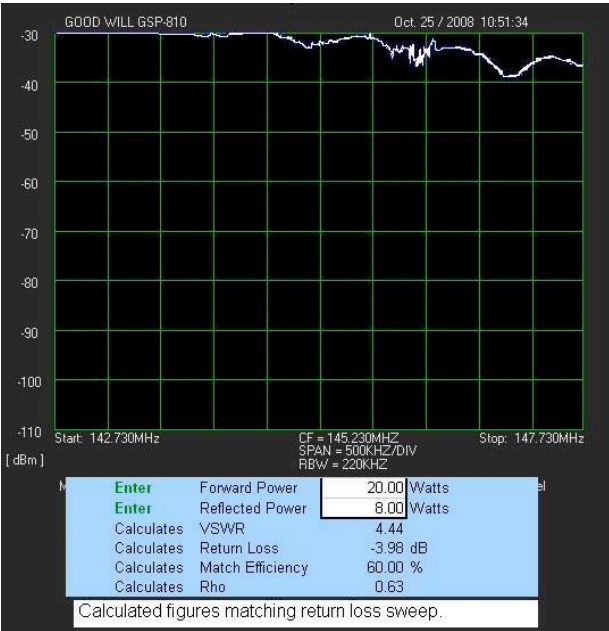
Chuck and his 20M Curtain rod vertical.



Photos this page courtesy, Cindy, KC9NCU and Dave, N9YNF. TNX, -ed.

Here is the image of the retired antenna:

Description: I have enhanced the plot because when I saved the image, it was dark blue. Looking at the plot at the center-line of the display, we see a return loss of about 3 or 4dB. The chart at the bottom indicates calculations that match the sweep. NOT GOOD! Remember, the higher the return loss, the more efficient the system is. Return loss is a calculation of forward power to reflected power. Forward power in this representation is referenced to the -30dB line in the plot. Reflected power changes with frequency, therefore, we can plot this using a Tracking Sweep Generator...



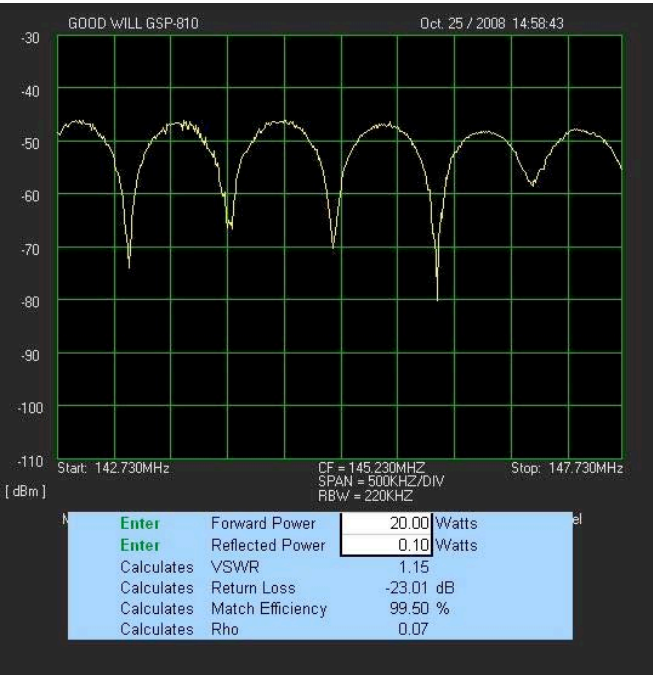
Here is the image of the new antenna shortly before it was commissioned:

The chart at the bottom represents the Bird wattmeter readings actually obtained that confirms the return loss plot.

Description: What we are looking at here is a sweep of the transmission system at the point where the repeater connects. -30dBm is the reference, or open. This represents high impedance.

Think of return loss as being the inverse of VSWR. It still indicates how efficient the system is. In our case with return loss, the greater the return loss, the more efficient the transmission system is. In the display, we start sweeping at 142.73 MHz and end the sweep at 147.73 MHz with the center being at the operating frequency of 145.23 MHz. We can sweep the system over a much wider range, but for our interests, this plot is just fine. Looking at the vertical center line, this is the operating frequency of 145.23 MHz. As we look at the crossing of the centerline with the swept plot, we see conservatively about 23 or 24 dB of return loss. Looking at the chart, we can see in usable terms, what this represents in terms of reflected power. In layman's terms, this system is operating very nicely. A 1.15 VSWR is sometimes hard to obtain with long coax runs like this.

A note here: if we only had 3 dB of return loss, you would see half of your power returned back to the equipment. Or, in other terms, you are only radiating half your power out the antenna. A 10dB return loss would give you a 10 percent reflected power. A 20dB return loss would give you 1 percent reflected power. The greater the return loss, the better your system is actually radiating the signal!



WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2009

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

Two holidays are fast approaching. By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have already passed, and I hope that as you went through the Thanksgiving holiday you had time to reflect on the things for which you can be thankful. Christmas and all that it brings will soon be upon us and I sincerely hope that you can find joy through the Christmas holiday. It is certainly a celebration that brings joy to the hearts of many as we celebrate what Christmas represents.

Some will wish you "Happy Holidays" but I am a bit old fashioned and would wish each of you "Merry Christmas". Hope you find a nice gift under your tree!!

73,

Gary W9EEU

Note from the Editor's Cave

Here we are at the end of another year and we would be remiss without thanking all those who contributed articles, ideas and photos. This newsletter is, as always, no better than the content contributed by interested amateurs.

We know that there are many others of you out there who have stories to tell and some even have photos to go with them. Just look back over the past year and see what articles caught your attention (hopefully favorably). Someone contributed it. Next year, that someone could be YOU!

We would also like to thank Gary Adams, W9EEU, Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD, and Dave Pifer, N9YNF, for playing an integral part in each and every *Bandspread* that gets to the amateur community one way or another. We couldn't do it without you!

Very sincerely,

Gary, K9ERE, Editor, *The Bandspread*

VE TESTING

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA:

1st Sunday of even-numbered months;

1 P.M., Indiana time

1715 S. 8th St., east of the main Glas-Col building. Use the front entrance to the building on 8th St.

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!

DECEMBER 7 TERRE HAUTE

JANUARY 10 PARIS

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



DECEMBER 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.

