



THE

MAY 2012

BANDSPREAD



Official Publication of the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Local Nets

Monday Evening.....	Clay Co. Ares Net	
9:00 pm ET	146.580	
Monday Evening.....	Sullivan Co. Ares Net	
8:30 pm ET	146.775/R	
Tuesday Evening	Parke Co Em Svs Net	
8:00 pm ET	146.715/R	
Tuesday Evening	Vigo Co. ARES Net	
9:00 pm ET	146.685/R	
9:30 pm ET	444.350/R	
Wednesday Evening	Clark Co. ARES Net	
9:00 pm CT	146.595/S	
Thursday Evening	CAARLA Net	
9:00 pm ET	146.685/R	
Sunday Evening.....	WVARA Net	
9:00 pm ET	146.685/R*	

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

Regular Events

Every Thursday: The Club Station is open, 7-9 p.m. First Thursday, Downstairs, Red Cross bldg, 700 S. 3rd.

Other Thursdays: New Club Station, N.E. corner of 7th and Idaho. Entrance and parking back of building.

1st Friday of the Month: Monthly club meeting at Glas-Co Annex, 7PM EST (former Idaho Post Office Bldg), 1715 S. 8th in Terre Haute

Table of Contents

- 2) Brentlinger Dinner PIX
- 3) Kanton Island DXpedition
- 4) Clark County Biathlon
- 5) Meeting Minutes
- 6) Mailing Page

Brentlinger Award



This year the Brentlinger award was given to Wayne Stoops, NQ9J. Always willing to help with any aspect of the hobby, Wayne exhibits a great deal of patience when mentoring in any area. He has mentored many through learning morse code required in earlier years, and was able to help many through this learning experience. He always celebrated with the person when they passed any element of the examination process, and was always eager to help the person experience the new modes and frequencies available with their new operating privileges. He often helped administer exams to those seeking a license, and was always the encourager that they could pass any given element. One particular person that Wayne mentored had a fear of testing and would literally "freeze" up when the test started. Realizing that the person knew the code, but had a fear of the test, Wayne arranged a "practice" session and the gentleman passed his code test.

He is always willing to take time out of his schedule to help you open up a piece of equipment and check it out. He can help you determine if it is working properly, or if it is not he can often help you identify the problem and figure out what needs to be done to get it back in operation. He is currently trying to figure out why my amplifier is exhibiting behavior that doesn't appear normal. He often loans his equipment to others to help them get, or stay, on the air. He has even been known to purchase equipment out of his own pocket with the intention of "loaning" it to someone for their use. When I was trying to learn morse code, he purchased a transverterkit, and built it, to get my HF rig on 2 meter CW. After I passed the code test, the transverter found a new home to help someone else. He then spent many hours patiently working QRS until I gradually built up confidence. This was a big factor in my passing the required 5wpm code test.

The list of those he personally mentored into ham radio is long, and yet today he continues to share the hobby with anyone that shows even the slightest interest. Not sure of the dates, but Wayne served as EC for Clay County at some time, and is a part of the current Clay County ARES group, and a regular on the Clay County Emergency Service net.

Some years after a good friend in amateur radio passed away Wayne, and his wife Darlene, drive his widow to Alabama to visit with her family. This is just an example of the giving spirit that Wayne always exhibits.

Brentlinger Dinner Pictures



Chef Chuck, W9COD, did another excellent job this year providing the main food and drink items.



A good shot of the hungry folks who attended.



Pitch-in setup



Ray, K9DUR, introduces the Award recipient.



Grandpa Kevin, K9HX and granddaughter, Alex



Wayne, NQ9J and Steve, NT9T, WVARA president.



Who would ever guess that Gary, W9EEU, is just back from Hawaii?



Ted, K9SGL, nephew of the original Brentlinger Brother and Pat, KA9ALI



Faith and Begorrah! Diane has a real shamrock pin

DXpedition to Kanton Island

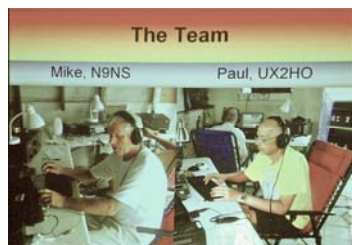


Kanton Island History

- Discovered in 1824 and named for a Boston Whaler that went aground in 1854. The crew survived after a 49 day voyage to the Marianas.
- Originally claimed by the British – American and British ships actually fired at each other (1 shot each) in an ownership dispute in 1937.
- The U.S. built a 6200 foot runway as a stopover for flights in WWII.
- Pan Am flew to Kanton until 1965. The runway is still listed as an emergency landing strip.



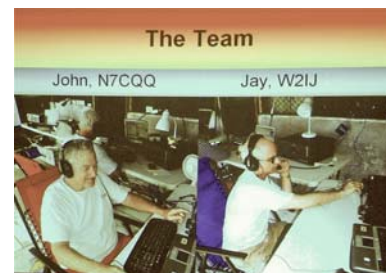
- A Mercury tracking station was built in 1960. It was converted to a missile tracking station (by N6TJ, among other) and the USAF used it through 1976. Both the Americans and the British left that year.
- Kiribati became independent from Britain in 1979 and established a permanent population on Kanton.



Some of the Team

The Trip

We chartered the S/V Discovery to take us from Apia to Kanton. It arrived in Apia 3 days late. We unloaded and re-loaded it in 1 day. The ship was no pleasure vessel. It was hot and humid on deck but it was hotter and more humid and cramped below deck.



Arrival and Setup

We arrived late in the afternoon of April 20. We unloaded all the equipment before dark. After several wrong choices, we found reasonable locations for the SSB and CW stations and began to set up radios and antennas. We had one SSB station on the air by late April 21. We all worked so hard putting up antennas in the heat that no one wanted to operate that night – we only wanted to sleep.

We had all the radios set up and operating by late April 22, although not all the antennas were up. Late that evening, a large rainstorm moved over the island, flooding the CW stations. We had to shut down until morning and then figure out where it was dry enough to re-assemble the stations.



Antennas

We used vertical antennas for every band except 6M – Switched Vertical Dipole Arrays (SVDA's) and 1/4 wave verticals designed and built by W8AEF. There were 2 sets of each:

- SVDA's for 20M – 10M
- 2 element 1/4 wave phased vertical arrays for 40M and 30M.
- Single 1/4 wave verticals for 80/75M and 1 1/4 wave vertical for 160M.
- All antennas were less than 200 yards from the ocean.

On 6M, W7GJ Leon made us a 7 element m² yagi on a 30' boom, which we erected above the CW stations. We used an IC7000 and a beacon on 50.110 MHz. It was reportedly heard in E5, FK and JA, but we did not make any QSOs.

We intended to try 6M EME, but the late arrival and early departure caused us to miss the moon windows. Paul, UX2HO, did all the work to set up the 6M beacon.

Operation

Most days, the bands closed from roughly 8 AM until 2 PM local time. We discovered that we could get 10M openings during this time, but that was rare. Based on propagation forecasts and then experience, we found 20M, 1M and occasionally, 30M and 15M were open to EU almost all night. We also found the QRN on 80M and 40M were very high. So we decided to concentrate on the higher frequencies to EU, to the detriment of the low bands.

Aleksey, UA4HOX, begged us to help him put up the 160M antenna at the SSB site. After stealing a keyer and paddles from the CW station, Aleksey was the only 160M operator. Conditions were mediocre – his best DX was UR0MX.

Despite having been told roughly 1000 times, not everyone brought a headset. In particular, some SSB operators did not bring headsets with microphones (HUH?) So we had a shortage. Some CW operators brought "DXpedition" keyer paddles which they wouldn't mind losing in the ocean. Since we couldn't switch paddles when we switched operators (the pileups would get unruly), some of us sounded QLF when we were stuck with the "DXpedition" paddles.

Repair of the USGS Seismic Station

We had offered to repair the Seismic station located on Kanton for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). W2IJ and N1EMC attended training in New Mexico, where they were assured it would take only 2 days to make the repairs. However, the USGS didn't count on corrosion, heat, humidity and seriously damaged equipment. We lost 2 SSB operators for almost 4 full days, so we didn't come close to working all the stations calling.

The People



They invited us to an hour-long welcoming ceremony on Saturday.

We didn't realize they pretend to be west of the International Dateline (to be on the same time as Tarawa). So our Friday was their Saturday.

We had to shut down the radios in the middle of huge pileups almost immediately after starting. Three hours later, we got back to the radios.

A supply ship visit every 3-6 months, so they regularly run out of necessities – like shoes and cooking supplies. Their electricity is batteries and solar panels. Their water is rain water captured in cisterns.



Some of the final numbers:

31,764 QSOs

10,520 Unique calls	(33%)	
17,854 CW QSOs	(56%)	
12,865 SSB QSOs	(41%)	
1,045 RTTY QSOs	(3%)	tnx to N7CQQ AND N6HC

Our Presenter

Our presenter for the evening was Mike Goode, N9NS, Indianapolis.

A little history:

Mike was first licensed when a senior in high school in 1966 as WA9RJL. He got his Extra Class ticket in 1969 and the N9NS call about 1977. He became interested in DXing in the early 70's when he joined the local DX/contest club.

He has a BS degree in Electrical Engineering Technology and works as the transmitter engineer at a local TV station, dealing with everything from DC to fiber optics. Besides Ham Radio he also is very interested in Geology/rock



collecting. In addition to his BS degree, he also has a BA degree in Geology.

He enjoys traveling but didn't get into DXpeditions until 1992 when he joined the Clipperton Island F00CI trip. Since then he has been on:

1993 Kingman Reef/Palmyra Island	N9NS/KH5K/N0AFW/KH5
1994 Namibia, CQWW-Phone contest	V59T
1996 Grenada, CQWW-Phone contest	J37A
1996 Cayman Isl. CQWW-CW	ZF2RF
1997 Kure and Midway Atolls	K7K & K4M
1998 Grenada, ARRL DX-Phone contest	J37G
1998 Bahamas, IOTA contest	C6IOTA

Clark County Spring Biathlon

The Clark County Spring Biathlon at Mill Creek Park was another great success. It was a Fundraiser for the Clark County Park District Trails Coalition. We had comments again that we were very professional and as the bikers went by they hollered "THANKS!!!!". The old communications van did an admirable job as net control station. It's nice to have a communication unit that you just pull up and start operations.



Tim (K9TDO), Jeff (AB9WR), Ann (KC9RBF), John (N9YRX), Joe (NT9X), Donnie (KC9VFQ), Dominic (KA9RDK), Steve (WB9WVG) and a new ham with a fresh license Olivia (KC9VMJ).



Ann, (KC9RBF) took this picture of the RV (Radio Van) draining the world gas supply.



Picture of Olivia (KC9VMJ) with radio and antenna thrown at her and told to be ready to operate in 5 min. She did a great job for her baptism by fire. Olivia sounded like an old pro.

Minutes

General Meeting April 13, 2012

The General meeting of the WVARA was called to order on Friday, April 13, 2012, at 7:10 p.m. by President Steve Shorter, NT9T. Vice President, Chuck Procarione, W9COD, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made. One new license was reported, Olivia Goulding, KC9VMJ. **Announcements:** (1) The Board Meeting will be held in the Glas-Col Conference Room following the General Meeting and tour. (2) The May WVARA club meeting will be on Friday, May 4, at Glas-Col. Ray, K9DUR, will make a presentation on the ARRL Official Observer Program. (3) Kevin, K9HX, announced that there is a new repeater 146.805, no P.L. located at the old Indiana State Police post. Vigo County ARES will use this repeater as their "home operation." (4) John, N9YRX, announced that volunteers are needed for the Illinois Spring Biathlon which will be held at Mill Creek Park on April 21. (5) CAMA Bike Rally will be held on June 2 and will also need volunteers. (6) Melanie Cloutier's mother passed away earlier this week and a card of condolence was passed around for members to sign. (7) QCWA—no announcements. (8) CAARLA will meet on Saturday, April 14, at Glas-Col. (9) Arthur, Illinois Hamfest is Sunday, April 22. **Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report will stand as published in The Bandspread. **Treasurer's Report:** Jeff, AB9WR moved his report of \$12,666.73 in all Club accounts be accepted. Kevin, K9HX, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business: (1) Jeff, AB9WR, summarized the budget for the Hamfest. There was discussion about pros (no set up and tear down) and cons (ramp, lack of food service, and the need to move the ticket canister to the far room next year) of the Indiana State University venue. **New Business:** (1) None. (2) Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. A tour of the 911 call center facility at the Vigo County jail followed this meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Mitchell, KC9RBF, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes April 13, 2012

The WVARA Board met on Friday, April 13, 2012. The meeting was brought to order at 9:17 p.m. by Steve Shorter, NT9T. Members present were: Steve Shorter, NT9T, President; Chuck Procarione, W9COD, Vice President; Jeff Mitchell, AB9WR, Treasurer; Ann Mitchell, KC9RBF, Secretary; Kevin Berlen, K9HX, Past President; Gary Adams, W9EEU, Trustee; Ted Brentlinger, K9SGL, Member at Large. Diane Brentlinger,

W9SMW also attended. **Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report was approved as printed in The Bandspread. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented in the form of a motion by Jeff with a total of \$12,666.73 in all accounts. Chuck, W9COD, seconded the motion. Motion carried. **Old Business:** (1) Kevin, K9HX, made a motion, seconded by Chuck, W9COD, that the Board approve the purchase of equipment from RA-COMM for the back-up repeater at the Vigo County Jail. The cost will be \$3300.00 which would be reimbursed by a donor. Motion passed. (2) Gary, W9EEU, announced that he plans to send out emails soon to line up equipment for Field Day. **New Business:** (1) Dave Pifer, N9YNF, has requested to use the WVARA logo on T-shirts, etc., use of WVARA name and support for liability insurance, trailer or RV for command center, Club call W9UUU for net control, and the K9IKQ repeater during the Terre Haute Triathlon on May 19, 2012. (2) Steve, NT9T, suggested that the club share the publicity ideas given by Buddy, KC9UAL, with the Vermillion County and Lafayette, Indiana clubs. (3) Steve, NT9T, announced that \$200.00 was budgeted for the Club Station, and would like to use those funds to for the purchase of digital interface units. We have a quote in hand for two units @ \$56 each which were designed by Ray, K9DUR. These would allow us to do digital at both club stations, and would also like one each for the RV and comm. trailer. This will be put before the membership next month. Chuck, W9COD, made a motion, seconded by Jeff, AB9WR, to purchase 2 digital interfaces and USB serial adapters for a total of approximately \$150.00. Motion passed. (4) Kevin, K9HX, asked if the Clay County ARES group could enter into a MOU regarding some needed repeater parts. The old MOU will be updated and re-written and will be presented at the next meeting. (5) Steve, NT9T, announced that Clark County has another ambulance available and asked if Clay County ARES would be interested. (6) Hamfest 2013. ISU has penciled it in on the schedule, but we will need to confirm the reservation. Kevin, K9HX, made a motion, seconded by Chuck, W9COD, to hold next year's hamfest at ISU provided we can get the same or better rate for next year. Motion passed. (7) Jeff, AB9WR, suggested that we use hand stamps in addition to tickets at future hamfests. Also, ticket numbering would be very helpful. (8) Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Mitchell, KC9RBF, Secretary

WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC. - 2012

Please complete this form and include your dues with it. You may return this application in person or mail to:

P.O. BOX 10081 TERRE HAUTE, IN 47801

Name: _____ Call: _____ License Class _____ ARRL MEMBER ☐

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ - _____ E-mail address _____

Date of Birth (Mo/Day/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!

Pdf format newsletter requires Adobe® Reader to view/print

The Bandspread is the official publication of the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. Organized around 1927, as a nonprofit public service organization, it was affiliated with the ARRL on April 5, 1934.

Board of Directors:

President: Steve Shorter – NT9T
Vice-President: Chuck Procarione - W9COD
Secretary: Ann Mitchell - KC9RBF
Treasurer: Jeff Mitchell - AB9WR
Trustee: Gary Adams - W9EEU
Past President: Kevin Berlen – K9HX
Member at Large: Ted Brentlinger – K9SGL

Publications:

Bandspread Editor: Dave Gammon - KC9JNZ
Bandspread Printing: Gary Adams - W9EEU
eBandspread Posting: David Pifer - N9YNF

Submissions: e-mail the editor at bandspread@w9uuu.org or mail to PO Box 10081, Terre Haute, IN 47808-0081

Webmaster: Ray Andrews – K9DUR

Contact the webmaster at webmaster@w9uuu.org to join our list Server or if you have a problem receiving the *eBandspread*

Sunday Night Net Manager: Kay Brentlinger, KW0LF

WVARA Testing

(Walk-ins Welcome)

Terre Haute, Indiana

2nd Saturday of even numbered months; 9:30 A.M., Indiana time
1715 S. 8th St., west side of 8th St. behind Glas-Col.
Park on side of bldg; use the front entrance on 8th St.
For further info contact:
Ray Andrews, K9DUR: 812-870-8810

Paris, Illinois

2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months; 8:30 A.M. Illinois time.
Burkybile Law Office
15175 Hwy 150
For further info contact:
Terry Hackett, KB9ZVA, 217-465-4884

June 9 – Terre Haute

May 12 – Paris

RYVES VE Testing

(Walk-ins Welcome)

2nd Thursday of every month, 7:00 P.M., Indiana time, Ryves Youth Cntr at Etling Hall.
For further info contact Jim Osburn, WD9EYB, at 812-238-0584 or wd9eyb0409@indianakits.com

May 10 – Terre Haute

THE BANDSPREAD

Official Publication of the
Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10081
Terre Haute, IN 47801



May 2012

2012 = 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 Association.