





## Triathlon (continued)



*Photos taken by Gary K9ERE*



# Severe Weather Preparedness

## An Editorial

It seems like forever since our last issue in which we wrote an article congratulating the people of the northern St. Louis area for coming through the destructive tornado that hit Lambert International Airport without sustaining any fatalities.

A lot has changed since then as tornado outbreaks in the southern states devastated hundreds of communities including Tuscaloosa, and surrounding Alabama, with loss of life in the hundreds. Then last week there was the F-5 Joplin, Missouri, tornado that killed over one hundred more in that general area of the country. And now, greater Terre Haute. While there was no loss of life, at press time, significant devastation has found its way to the Wabash Valley.

But, in a particularly bad year for severe weather, what are *we* doing to prevent loss of our own lives.

In the Wabash Valley, FEMA, aided by Amateur Radio organizations such as ARES and RACES will play a significant part in dealing with the after-the-fact cleanup of the devastation that has been so familiar on our TV screens this year.

We rely on the National Weather Service, local media and Skywarn to warn us of impending dangerous weather.

But the process of receiving warnings takes time. The National Weather Service is best prepared to warn us but the nearest installations are in Lincoln, Illinois and Indianapolis, Indiana. Neither is very close to us and we've talked before about NexRad radar's inability to deal with the curvature of the earth. Skywarn organizations along with trained spotters from Fire and Police can and do take up some of the slack, reporting severe weather under the radar to the NWS who then alerts the media. But it has to go to Indy and back because local TV and radio stations are sometimes reluctant to issue warnings sent directly from Skywarn, preferring to wait until NWS authorizes fast-growing dangers such as a funnel cloud or severe ponding of water indicating the possibility of flash flooding in an area. *Flash Flooding*: that's flooding that can rise in a matter of a very few minutes! All this takes precious time to work its way through the 'chain of information'. And before Skywarn can even contact Indianapolis, it has to wait for information from its stations before reporting it to NWS. So by the time you get the information by *any* of the means available, significant time has passed.

So what can *you* do at home to get this information as quickly as possible.

1. You can listen to Skywarn, the source of many of the warnings you hear later on other media.
2. Better still, you can check in to the nets from home and assist in supplying information in the first place.

Why don't more do this? One well-known excuse goes like this: "I'm listening even though I don't check in. However, if anything significant happens here I will check in when it happens." Okay, fine, as far as that goes. But what about the reverse situation where NWS notices, say, rotation in a given storm in your area but Skywarn doesn't know you are listening because you haven't checked in. So they can't call you to ask you to check it out. And even if you are listening, how closely are you listening. The net blaring on your radio in the next room doesn't count. We need stations, both fixed and mobile who are checked into the net and are actively participating. You could be just that critical person sometime.

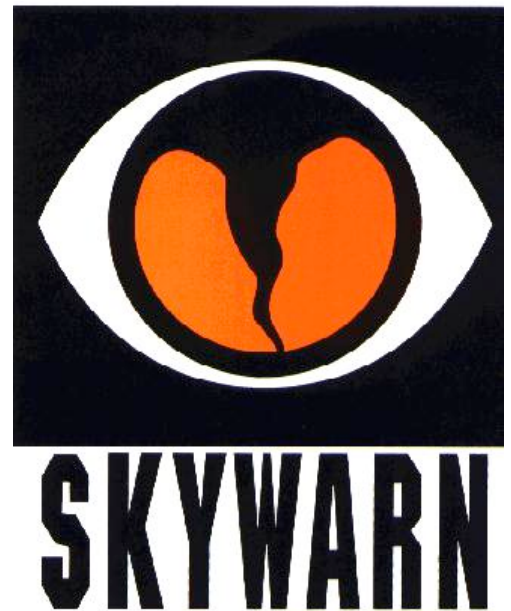
3. You can get and use a NOAA Weather Radio! But you have to *buy* one and *use* it. So why do so many folks *not* get NOAA Weather Radios? Complacency probably is a factor. Talk of "the shield" is often heard in the area as if a great metropolitan area such as Terre Haute can prevent the formation of severe storms. Tell that to Montgomery, Alabama, and other large cities this year which have been hit by tornadoes. Joplin, Missouri, is roughly the size of Terre Haute, by the way. And then there was last week here in Terre Haute itself.

So...

**CHECK INTO SKYWARN AND HELP SAVE YOUR OWN LIFE!**  
**GET THAT NOAA WEATHER RADIO AND BE PREPARED**

Maybe the events of a few days ago here will get our attention. Maybe not. Someone once quipped that, what Terre Haute really needs to wake them up is an F-5 tornado going down Wabash Avenue. Is that what it's going to take?

Gary K9ERE



## General Meeting May 3, 2013

The general meeting of the WVARA was called to order on Friday May 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. by Trustee Gary Adams W9EEU. Secretary Mike StClair N1WVU led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made. Visitors None. We had no upgrades since the last meeting.

Announcements: (1) There will be no board meeting planned after the general meeting. It has been rescheduled for May 23, 2013. (2) The Vigo County ARES meeting will be held on Monday May 6th at 7:00pm. The location will be at the Honey Creek Fire Station 91 (3) Clay County Ares/RACES meeting will be held on Monday May 13th at 6:00 PM EST at Four Loving Paws Veterinary Services 965 West Craig Ave Brazil, IN 47834

Secretary's Report As printed in the Bandspread.

Treasurers Report Motion by Ken W9VKD and was seconded by John T K9PIE

New Business- Field Day location VFW Post 972 Recreation Area

Field day shirts can be ordered. The price is \$12.00

There will be a work day to move items from the home of NT9T on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Talk in on the K9IKQ repeater at 146.685. The purchase of 2 new antennas has been brought before the membership 1. A DXE-40VE-1TB 40M 1/4 wave vertical and a DXE - 7580FS-VA1 75/80 1/4 wave vertical for field day use. Ray K9DUR made a motion and Ron K9ZXO 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the motion passed.

Club program IN QSO Party by Ray K9DUR

Meeting was adjourned following the program.

*Respectfully submitted, N1WVU Secretary Mike StClair*

## ORDER YOUR FIELD DAY T-SHIRTS

Field Day T-Shirts will be ordered again this year. The cost of the shirts will be \$12 each again this year. To reserve your shirt, please remit the money to Kevin H9HX or Gary W9EEU along with your shirt size and your name and call sign as you wish them to appear on the shirt. Please submit the information in written form to help us keep the information organized.

## Board Meeting Minutes 05/03/2013

The WVARA Board met on Thursday May 23, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. Members present were Chuck Procarione, W9COD, President; Kevin Berlin, K9HX, Vice-President; Mike StClair, N1WVU, Secretary; Gary Adams, W9EEU, Trustee and Ted Brentlinger, K9SGL, Board Member At Large. SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mike presented the Secretary's Report, which was approved as printed in The Bandspread.

OLD BUSINESS: (1) There has been no progress on the repeater upgrade. We still need to order the proper crystals. (2) School classes. The discussion was that the club needed a coordinator to start making contacts in the Vigo County school corporation to start moving amateur radio back into the schools. We still need a volunteer to head this effort. (3) Storage space. The club purchased a trailer for \$800 and then the \$800 was donated back to the club. We need to find someone to move the trailer to Crown Electric for storage.

New BUSINESS: (1) We have located a 45 ' tower from Joink that we can remove and use for our own purpose. (2) We need to spend time working on the power in the trailer. It has been throwing breakers. (3) We purchased a new 20-meter dipole for field day for \$30. The President approved reimbursing W9EEU for this purchase. (4) We will be having our June meeting at the new field Day location. It will be a cook out and field day discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

*-Respectfully Submitted, Mike StClair, N1WVU, Secretary*

## Location & Time Change for June Club Meeting

The June meeting of the WVARA will be a pitch in meal following by a discussion of Field Day plans. The meeting will begin at 6:00 PM and will be held at the new Field Day site at the VFW Post 972 Recreation Area, 8170 State Road 159 south of Riley. This is about 1.5 miles south of Riley on the East side of the highway, and there are signs showing that it is a VFW site. Bring a covered dish and plan on a good evening.

**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: Chuck Procarione - W9COD  
 Vice-President: Kevin Berlen - K9HX  
 Secretary: Mike St Clair - N1WVU  
 Treasurer: Ken Hauptil - W9VKD  
 Trustee: Gary Adams - W9EEU  
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**Publications:**

Bandspread Editor: Gary Adams - W9EEU  
 Bandspread Printing: Gary Adams - W9EEU  
 Bandspread Circulation: David Pifer - N9YNF

**Submissions:** e-mail the editor at bandspread@w9uuu or mail to P.O. 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 - KWOLF

**How to submit articles for THE BANDSPREAD**

The WVARA has a diverse and widespread membership. We exist all over the country, according to the membership list. There is a great fount of knowledge and experience out there that is just waiting to benefit the readership.

Every month important things happen with Amateur Radio among our membership. Sometimes there are even photos. We would like to know about them and so would others.

Do you have an article that you would like to see in The Bandspread. If so, please send it by e-mail in plain text or MS Word, to: bandspread@w9uuu.org. Please indicate "For the Bandspread" or something similar in the title of your message or on the envelope.

The editor reserves the right to edit for space, spelling, typos and good taste. However, if any significant editing is necessary we'll call you to seek your advice. Therefore, please include your snail-mail or e-mail address and phone number in the message.

We look forward to receiving your contributions.

Also, don't be discouraged if it doesn't run right away. Sometimes we're just overloaded with articles and our limit, because of postage (and the mental health of the editor) is 10 pages. - Ed.

## Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association, INC. - 2013

*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 No: \_\_\_\_\_ email 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 email 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 money, and 2) in the .pdf version, everything is in color 3) it arrives to you faster

*Those with a printer can also PRINT the .pdf if they want a paper version.*

If you are applying for a family membership, please list the licensed family members (living at home) below 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. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

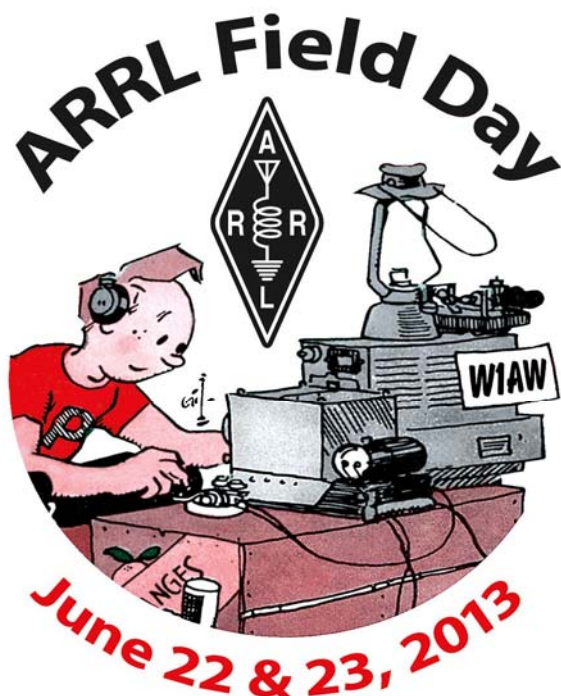
Note: 1) Payments made Sept.-Dec. apply to membership for the following year; 2) ARRL also has a family membership program as well. See QST

\* Club gets a rebate from the ARRL

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No President's Corner This Month



[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## WVARA Testing

(Walk-ins Welcome)

### Terre Haute, Indiana

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month except July;

9:30 A.M., Indiana time

1715 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St., west side of 8<sup>th</sup> St. behind Glas-Col.

Park on side of bldg; use the front entrance on 8<sup>th</sup> St.

For further info contact:

Ray Andrews, K9DUR: 812-870-8810

June 8 – Terre Haute

## RYVES VE Testing

(Walk-ins Welcome)

2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:wd9eyb0409@indianakits.com)

June 13 – Terre Haute

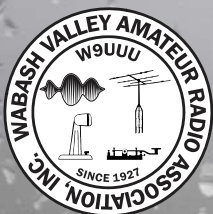
## THE BANDSPREAD

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P.O. Box 10081

Terre Haute, IN 47801



*June 2013*

2013 = 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.