



# THE BANDSPREAD

JUNE 2014



## Local Nets

Monday .....	Clay Co. ARES Net	
9:00 pm EST.....	145.420/R	
Tuesday .....	Verm./Parke ARES Net	
8:00 pm EST.....	146.715/R	
Tuesday .....	Putnam Auxcomm Net	
8:00 pm EST.....	442.225/R	
Tuesday .....	Vigo Co. Emcomm Net	
9:00 pm EST.....	147.150/R	
9:30 pm EST.....	444.350/R	
Wednesday .....	Sullivan ARES Net	
8:30 pm EST.....	146.775/R	
Wednesday .....	Rose Tech Radio Club	
9:00 pm EST.....	146.400	
Wednesday .....	Clark Co. ARES Net	
9:00 pm EST.....	146.595	
Thursday .....	Putnam Auxcomm Net	
9:00 pm EST.....	147.330/R	
Thursday .....	CAARLA Net	
9:00 pm EST.....	146.685/R	
Sunday.....	WVARA Net	
9:00 pm EST.....	146.685/R*	

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

## Regular Events

Every Thursday: The Club Station is open, 5:30-8:00 p.m. every Thursday. The Club Station is located on the N.E. corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Idaho. Entrance and parking back of building.

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

## No Club Meetings Jul-Aug

Just a reminder that no regular club meetings are scheduled for July and August. Field Day is June 28-29, and the summer picnic will be in August date to be announced.

Regular monthly club meetings will resume in September.

## June Club Meeting

The June Club meeting will be a pitch-in dinner with the club providing the meat.

We will also have a Tech Talk on Magnetism, and go over preliminary Field Day Plans. **We will eat at 6:00PM!!!!**

## INQP Takes Center Stage

The Indiana QSO Party took place Saturday May 3. WVARA members were busy with several operations around the state. Mike N1WVU had the club station open.

Gary K9ERE and Dave N9FMD took the newly renovated communications trailer on it's maiden voyage to the Clay-Vigo county line where they operated using the call W9ISU. Dave reports that the trailer passed with flying colors (see report elsewhere).

Gary W9EEU and Ray K9DUR ventured on a rover expedition. They set up in Knox, Gibson, Warrick, Spencer, Owen and Clay counties throughout the day. First stop was Gregg Park in Vincennes where a few people stopped by to ask what we were doing. Second stop was a shopping center in Princeton where we had some issues with the noise level. Then on to Scales Lake County Park in Boonville where we set up on the dam of Scales Lake. The scenery was absolutely beautiful in the late afternoon sun. Then on to Lincoln State Park in Spencer County, and after skipping a couple of planned stops we ended the day on the Clay-Owen County line in a church parking lot.

Dan NW9N and Dick N9TH ventured to Shakamak State park and operated on the Clay-Sullivan county line. They were able to secure the use of a cabin that is sits right on the county line. Complete with a full kitchen and pleasant surroundings, Dan and Dick made over 180 contacts operating multi-multi. Dick reported "I can't think of a nicer venue than this one. We had a full kitchen and our wives came down at supper time to serve us a cooked meal." Now that the secret is out that cabin may become pretty popular for the INQP. (See the recap of their activity.)

Dave K9ZCE operated from his home QTH. Dave says that other than Field Day this was his first ever contest. Parke County is a difficult county to get in the log, and with some urging Dave decided to give it a try. Dave ended up with 129 contacts for the day. Not bad for a rookie Dave!! Dave was kind enough to write a short recap of his day and it is included in this edition elsewhere.

## Working the Indiana QSO Party

Other than Field Day, this was my first contest. I have never found an interest in such short QSO's ! I do enjoy all the aspects of Field Day, comradery of the club members, set up, the logistics of getting all the gear to the site, and contacting stations all over the nation, and World. When asked by K9DUR to represent Parke County for the exercise and to give a rare county contact to many avid County Hunters, I said yes. I have for some time been researching the NVIS antennas for 40 Meters. This seemed to fit an all Indiana contest event in that the antennas range is @ 400 miles, and has the advantage of lower noise than a high dipole. I had also realized the need in a "modern" ham shack to have a computerized logging system. Ray advised I download N1MM Logger. The on-line support for its setup was good. I had a problem for a while of N1MM not talking to my Yaesu 450D, but that seemed to "go away" and it reads the operating frequency into the log just fine. It also makes it easy to just type in a frequency, and the radio is there the instant you press the enter key!!

I operated alone, which made for a slow contact flow, especially when parking on a frequency and calling CQ. I soon developed a, not sure I should call it, "strategy". I would roll up and down the band a few times answering others CQ calls, till I could not find anybody new to call. Then I would bring up my FTBCAT control software for the FT-450D and scan a spectrum display, looking for any, "Holes" in the activity. I would check the dead spot in the spectrum, ask if the Frequency was in use, and begin calling CQ. Usually within 5 minutes the word got around and I would start picking up contacts.

I made 129 contacts, N1MM scored my effort at 8693 with all the out of state multipliers?

I would definitely do it again. I may even try to set up a schedule to be on 7.188 to provide Parke County to county Hunters.

73's

Dave K9ZCE



Dave's Station



Dave's NVIS Antenna

## NW9N IN-QSO-PARTY 2014

Summary Sheet File:

Category: Multi-Multi, Low Power, Fixed

Operators:

Dan Hunter – NW9N  
2134 Beechtree Ct.  
Terre Haute, In 47803

Dick Wood – N9TH  
10 West Lawrin Blvd  
Terre Haute, In 47803

Results:

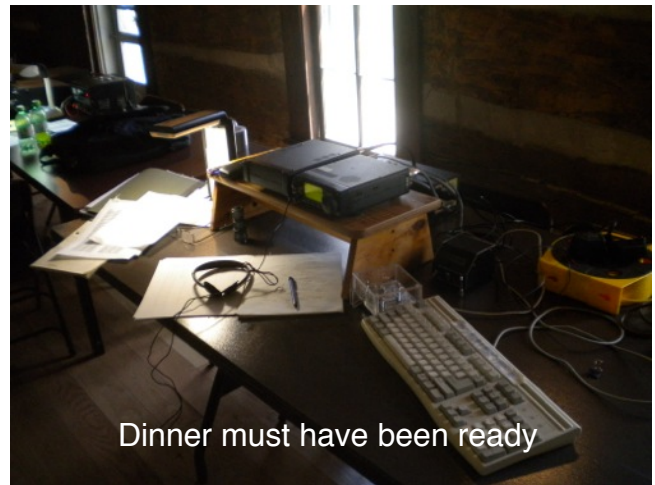
SSB: 103 non-duplicate QSO's in 28 states/provinces with 31 Indiana counties; plus contact with W9JP/100.

CW: 77 non-duplicate QSO's in 11 states with 30 Indiana counties.

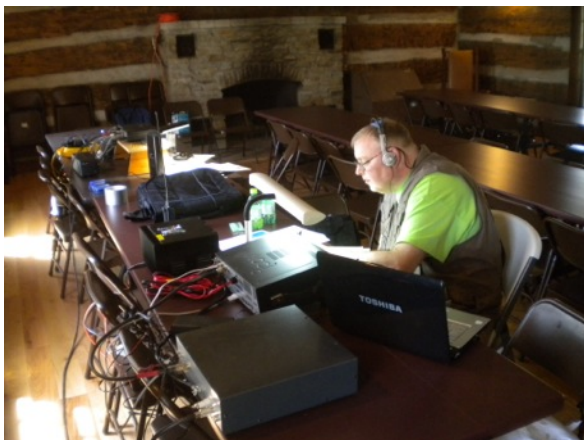
Claimed Score:  $(77 \times 2) + 103) \times (28 + 31 + 11 + 30) + 100 =$   
 $(257) \times (100) + 100 = 25,800$



Dick and Dan in Op Mode



Dinner must have been ready



## We Passed!

With numerous finals and graduation ceremonies taking place this month among various Wabash Valley institutions of learning, it's important to note that a final exam also took place May 3rd for WVARA's Communications Trailer.

And not only did we pass, we got a good score as well. Not perfect, but good. Our test was held at a small country church on the Vigo / Clay County border, and it happened to occur on the same day as the Indiana QSO Party.

This activity was WVARA's chance to test the communications trailer after many months of planning and physical work. Among the most important additions to the trailer in recent days was the addition of a 30 foot pneumatic mast. We now can raise our antenna toward the sky, with no climbing required. Oh darn.

An important chapter on the test involved our power systems, which also got a good score. Four deep-cycle batteries are connected to power all radios, and solar panels are installed to charge the batteries. We were concerned about the longevity of that battery system, but they lasted longer than we did. An on-board generator was also available in case of battery failure, but was not needed.

New dipole antennas were built to accommodate 40 and 80 meters and mobile "Ham Stick" antennas were used for other bands. All worked well.

When not directly involved in trailer-testing or operating we also found time for show and tell. A number of visitors from the church, including the pastor, accepted our demo invitation. Several WVARA members also came by for a look as well.

There is always more work to do (surprise) but most of the hard work is behind us. And with final exams complete maybe the next effort will count towards graduate school.

-Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD





## Amateur Radio Ops Supports Thunder in the Valley

Once again volunteer ham radio operators gave of their time to provide communication support to the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Terre Haute Triathlon. The organizers of the event appreciate the support that the ham community provides in assisting them with the event to keep track of what is going on around the course of the triathlon. Getting on location early on a Saturday morning to set up for the 8:00 AM start time, these folks demonstrate the essence of volunteer community service. A huge thank you to those who gave of their time to help out this year, and especially to Gary K9ERE for organizing the effort.

See pics on next page.



## WVARA Supports TH North Vigo Radio Club

The WVARA has been working with TH North Vigo High School to organize and support a school radio club. Several months ago the board asked for volunteers to present ham radio as a possible activity at the school. Dan Hunter NW9N took the challenge, and along with Dick Wood N9TH, has been instrumental in getting things going. A presentation was made during an activities promotion event at the school and a teacher was found to sponsor the group. Jeff Hammers took an interest and then some. Jeff teaches electronics class and once he was introduced to ham radio, Jeff saw that this would fit right in with the curriculum, and actually enhance the learning experience. Jeff was kind enough to attend our club meeting last month, and the excitement was obvious to those in attendance. Arrangements were made to conduct a testing session during the school day for the students. Jerry W9GWC, Jeff AB9WR, and Ann W9RBF all volunteered to serve as VE's for the day and it proved a very successful day. A total of 21 applicants took the Technician exam with 10 passing. Two of those took the General exam and passed it as well (One of those was Ray's granddaughter!!), and one of those took the Extra and came very close to passing it as well. One of the new Technician's is the teacher (WHEW!!!). Congratulations to all and we look forward to sharing the hobby with all of you. Below is a note that Jeff KD9BHP sent after exam day.

Greetings,

News from your north station. (Yes Jerry, I know it is a fragmented sentence, so is the next one.)

A big thanks to Jerry, Ann, Jeff, and Dan.

These people came with no pretenses and worked long hard hours with my students. Thanks Chuck for making this happen!

I wish some of you could have seen the excitement on the kid's faces as they passed the test. After you left later in the afternoon I was looking out across my classroom and this is what I saw. Tony Eley left his computer and came back to his things on the desk. Sitting down he got his temporary license out and just stared at it with the biggest smile. Here's the kicker, I was doing the same thing! You should have heard the kids coming back telling me their call signs. All day Monday they keep looking up their name on the FCC site.

Having that many pass and two getting their general I believe is phenomenal. I was so proud of your granddaughter Ray, she was not confident enough to try for the general test. I talked her into giving it a go, and she only missed one!

I was so spent Friday worrying about my kids passing, about me passing, about student getting last back late to third hour class, and our poor testers. I left school with the biggest headache. All went well and it was a great successes. Thank-you.

I have several who have expressed interest in coming with me on the 14th to try to pass the test. Summer vacation is coming and I hope I can keep interest up.

I plan on bringing 4 or 5 on field days with me we will see how that goes as many land summer jobs.

I have been promoting the club, and talking about some of the things one can do joining. (I have my paper work filled out and 20 dollars in hand, can I just bring it next club meeting?)

None of us have any radio equipment yet. I was wondering if I could get a couple of you guys to stop by the school and spend the day with some of your radios to show the students. I want to keep interest up for these who did not pass, and those who did! Would your trailer be available to show? We only have 12 days left. I was going to bring some boys by on Thursday night but I have a retirement party to attend.

I have several human-interest stories to share the next time we meet.

When is the next club meeting? I keep checking the web site but no update.

Take care all. 73

Jeff KD9BHP

## Congrats TH North Radio Club - The Future is Bright

## Donation of Equipment to TH North Radio Club

Equipment from the station of Don Lewis KA9FMC was recently donated to be used by the students in the TH North Radio Club. The equipment will provide the group with HF and VHF capabilities. The WVARA will be helping install the station in the next few months, and will plan to have it on the air by the time school starts in the fall. Don's family didn't want to simply sell the equipment, but wanted to see it go to a good use. They are very pleased that his equipment will see good use by the TH North Radio Club. Jeff was extremely excited about the equipment and was anxious to let his students know about what is coming. Everyone would like to thank Don's family for making this equipment available.



Equipment donated to TH North Radio Club



Jeff Hammers, Dan Hunter and Dick Wood



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

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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:** John VanSandt - N9YRX

**Field Day 2014 Coming Soon!!**

Field Day is just around the corner and promises to be one of the best ever. We have already had several step forward and volunteer their assistance with Friday set-up. Some have indicated that they have scheduled vacation days so they can be there on Friday as well. The WVARA will once again be at the VFW Post 972 Recreation Area, 8170 State Road 159 south of Riley.

Join the fun June 27-29 for Field Day 2014. Bring a guest and introduce them to ham radio, get on the air and make some contacts, sit and enjoy great fellowship, and most of all have fun.

See you all there!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2014**

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 10081  
 TERRE HAUTE, IN 47801

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!

## Indiana Elects New Section Manager

Four new ARRL Section Managers will take office on July 1. Ballots were counted May 20 for contested races in the spring SM election cycle.

In Indiana, Joseph Lawrence, K9RFZ, of Fort Wayne, received 652 votes to top incumbent Section Manager Lou Everett Sr, WA5LOU, of Cumberland, who polled 482 votes. Lou has been SM for the past 2 years.

Lawrence previously served as Indiana's Section Emergency Coordinator, as Allen County ARES Emergency Coordinator, and District 3 DEC. He is currently the Allen County RACES Radio Officer and IDHS Digital Amateur Radio Advisory Council facilitator. An aerospace and physics professional, he's also taught numerous Technician license classes.

Lou has done an outstanding job as the Indiana Section Manager, and leaves the Section in fine shape for Joseph. We would like to thank Lou for all that he has done for the Indiana Section, and for all of his support. We look forward to working with Joseph to continue building the Indiana Section.

## WVARA Testing

(Walk-ins Welcome)

### Terre Haute, Indiana

2nd Saturday of every month (except July);

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

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## 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 Edwards at

812-235-1265 or

[jedwards@catholiccharitiesterrehaute.org](mailto:jedwards@catholiccharitiesterrehaute.org)

## THE BANDSPREAD

Official Publication of the

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P.O. Box 10081

Terre Haute, IN 47801



## JUNE 2014

2014 = 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.

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