



# THE BANDSPREAD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC



June 2017

## High Altitude Balloon Project Update Tom KD0CGO

We did launch the balloon on Sunday morning around 7:15am EDT. It is also interesting to note that it was May 6<sup>th</sup> that the Hindenburg caught fire and crashed in NY 80 years ago. I was unaware of this until I heard it announce on NPR while preparing to launch the balloon!

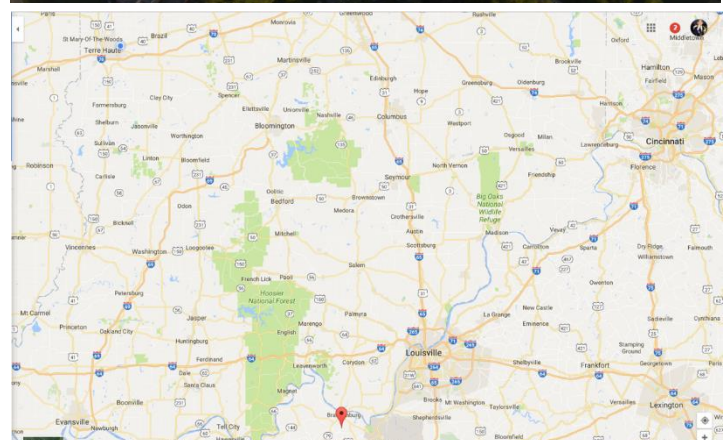
Like we had practiced, we connected the Faraday radios before launch and ran them while we preparing other aspects of the balloon. Based on our testing, we never had any problems with the Faraday connection after the first minute or two. By running Faraday for an extended time before launch, we were able to establish a certain level of confidence in the connection on the day of the launch.

Once the balloon had been filled up, we did a systems check of the payload. After all physical and wireless connections were checked, we powered the GoPro and siren we attached to the payload. Then we released the payload and hopped in the cars.

After about 5 minutes in the air, we lost connection with Faraday and were never able to reconnect. The antenna on the vehicle was the antenna included with Faraday mounted to the top of the chase vehicle. We also built a 915Mhz Yagi, but actually had better luck with the mag-mount since it was outside the car. While we were not able to determine why we were not receiving data, we do know that the payload Faraday was still transmitting because we were able to see it on the SDR we had with us. We were able to see the regular pulsing of Faraday for at least 50 minutes until LOS when it dropped below the noise floor.

Since we did not have data for most of the flight, we were not able to determine the landing location of the payload. We would have continued to the simulated landing area of the payload, but we changed our minds based on some of the data we received from the first few minutes of Faraday. The actual rate of ascent was determined using the data from Faraday. The lower than anticipated lift was significant enough to move the estimated landing spot of the payload to somewhere deep in Kentucky. Since we had lost data connection and only had the simulation to guide us, we decided to turn back.

That was the end of the story until Monday when I received a call from a woman in Kentucky who kids had found the balloon in their front yard when playing. The balloon landed in Brandenburg, KY, just on the other side of the Indiana border. Not only did she give the club a call, but went out of her way to get the payload returned to us safely! Today, we pulled the video off of the GoPro and got some great photos. Unfortunately, it looks like the GoPro camera stopped recording at an altitude of around 30k feet. We believe this can be attributed to the temperature, since the GoPro restarted itself once on the ground. Below are some frames from the camera. In the next few days we will have the video files online so anyone can view them.



## Local Nets

Monday **Clay Co. ARES Net**  
9:00 pm EST 145.420/R

Monday **Clay Co. ARES Digital Net**  
9:10 pm EST 145.420/R

Monday **Sullivan ARES Net**  
8:30 pm EST 146.775/R

Tuesday **Vermilion/Parke ARES Net**  
8:00 pm EST 146.715/R

Tuesday **Putnam Auxcomm Net**  
9:00 pm EST 442.225/R

Wednesday **Rose Tech Radio Club**  
9:00 pm EST 146.400

Thursday **Putnam Auxcomm Net**  
8:00 pm EST 147.330/R

Thursday **CAARLA Net**  
9:00 pm EST 146.685/R

Fourth Thursday **District 7 ARES Net**  
8:30 pm EST 145.420/R

First Sunday **Vigo County ARES Net**  
8:30 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 simplex.

## Regular Events

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

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

## June Club Meeting

The program for the June 2nd Club Meeting will be on  
**PITCH-IN DINNER & PRESENTATION.**

## FIELD DAY

**JUNE 24 & 25, 2017**  
**SET-UP JUNE 23, 2017**

## WVARA Field Day



Once again, your club will be participating in Field Day. The dates are June 24 & 25, 2017. Set up is Friday, June 23, 2017.

Location is the Firehouse in Cory, Indiana.

Come out for plenty of operating, learning, conversation, eating and fun.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc Treasurer's Report – April 2017



### Account Balances as of 04/30/2017

Checking	\$963.20
Savings	\$5,279.57
PayPal	\$9.48
TOTAL	\$6,242.77
Property Loan	\$2,709.38

### Income & Expenses

#### INCOME

Donations	\$34.18
Half-Pot	\$21.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$55.18

#### EXPENSES

Communications Trailer (HT Batteries)	\$68.85
Corporation Report Fee	\$22.50
Hamfest Expenses (Donation – K9THN)	\$60.00
Miscellaneous (ARRL – NPOTA Certificate)	\$19.00
Miscellaneous (Printer Ink)	\$60.18
Property Loan Payment	\$74.18
Real Estate Taxes	\$186.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$490.71

OVERALL INCREASE/DECREASE	<b>-\$435.53</b>
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- Ray, K9DUR

***Dues are Due***

***Dues are Due***

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## **Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association 2017-05-05 Club Meeting Minutes**

President Kevin Berlen (K9HX) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm DST.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-President Jay Sotak (AB9CG).

Roll Call/Introductions – There were 27 sign-ins.

Indiana QSO Party – Our location has been changed to the WVARA club station. 11am-11pm (EDT), May 6<sup>th</sup>.

2017 WVARA Field Day – Jay (AB9CG) is chairing the event. There will be an organizational meeting this Thursday, 6 pm (EDT) at the WVARA club station.

2017 Triathlon – Gary Wheeler (K9ERE) indicated that he currently has enough volunteers, but will still accept more volunteers. Additional details will be sent to volunteers. The 2017 Triathlon is May 13<sup>th</sup> at Hawthorn Park.

WVARA June Club Meeting – This meeting is traditionally a cookout/carry-in. The club supplies the drinks/hot dogs/hamburgers. This meeting will begin at 6 pm (EDT).

Vigo County ARES – Net is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday monthly, 8:30 pm EST on 146.685 Repeater. Please check in.

VE Report – Testing is scheduled here at the Glas-Col Annex, Saturday, May 13, 9:30 am (EDT).

North Vigo High School Radio Club – K9THN will also operate during the Indiana QSO Party.

Secretary's Report – April minutes presented and approved.

Treasurer's Report – April report presented and approved.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws – Moved and seconded to approve as presented. Unanimous approval.

Unbudgeted Expenditure – \$350 for magnetic signs used for the 2016 Triathlon and for future years. Moved and seconded. Unanimous approval.

Cookout for Scouting – Request for support of the Cookout for Scouting, June 7, 11:00 am to 7 pm (EST), ISU Stadium. The club agreed to participate with the Communication trailer again this year.

The Club Station is open, 5:30-8:00 pm EST every Thursday. The Club Station is located on the N.E. corner of 7th and Idaho. Entrance and parking is in back of building. Come to the Club Station and operate it's great practice for Field Day, etc.

Break

50/50 Winner – \$17.00 – Will Mann (KC9ZYU)

Program – Rose Tech Radio Club (W9NAA) – High Altitude Balloon (HAB) Project. Presented by Thomas D'Agostino (KE0CGO) and Matt Herboth (KD9HNR).

WVARA Board Meeting – The meeting will follow the WVARA club meeting. All members are invited to attend.

Adjourned – 8:14 pm EDT.

Next Meeting – June 2; 6:00 pm (EDT); Glas-Col Annex; Annual Cookout/Carry-in

# **WVARA Board Meeting**

## **2017-05-05 Minutes**

**Date:** 2017-04-07      **Location:** Glas-Col Annex

**Called to Order:** 9:11 pm EDT by President Kevin Berlen (K9HX)

**In Attendance:**

President – Kevin Berlen, K9HX

Vice-President – Jay Sotak, AB9CG

Secretary – LeRoy Sedgwick, AC9NF

Past President – Jerry Cockrell, W9GWC

Gary Wheeler, K9ERE

David Littlejohn, N9FMD

Will Mann, KC9ZYU

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the 2017-04-07 Board Meeting were presented and approved.

**Treasurers Report:** April 2017 Treasurer's Report was presented and approved.

**Cookout for Scouting** – We may possibly do an information table also. This could be in lieu of Library Day. Discussion about the bad location at the library.

**Bandspread** – Jerry (W9GWC) is willing to assume publishing the Bandspread.

**Red Cross Antennas** – We are still planning on completing this in June. Need climber and sign crane. Jay (AB9CG) is to get a quote on a sign crane. LeRoy (AC9NF) will communicate with the Red Cross. June 3 is our target date with June 10 as a backup date.

**TurkeyFest 2017** – We need to begin promoting and preparing. Flyers are needed at various area Hamfests and promote on the various area nets. QST notice by August/September. We need the Clay 4H contract. Martha Knox is their contact. We currently do not have a chairman selected.

**NPOTA Award** – We have received our copy of the award.

**Liability Insurance** – We have received and filed our current copy for liability insurance.

**Club Property** – Discussion on the possibility of leasing our property for a cell tower. Dave Littlejohn (N9FMD) will investigate this for the club.



**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.

**Board of Directors:**

President: Kevin Berlen - K9HX  
Vice-President: Jay Sotak - AB9CG  
Secretary: LeRoy Sedgwick - AC9NF  
Treasurer: Ray Andrews - K9DUR  
Trustee: Gary Adams - W9EEU  
Past President: Jerry Cockrell - W9GWC  
Past President: Chuck Procarione - W9COD

**Publications:**

Bandspread Editor: Jerry Cockrell – W9GWC  
Bandspread Facilitator: Dave Littlejohn - N9FMD

**Submissions:** e-mail the editor at

[bandspread@w9uuu.org](mailto:bandspread@w9uuu.org) or mail to  
P.O Box 10081, Terre Haute, IN 47808-0081

**Webmaster:**

Ray Andrews - K9DUR

Contact the webmaster at [webmaster@w9uuu.org](mailto:webmaster@w9uuu.org) to join our list server or if you have a problem receiving the eBandspread. Visit us on the web at [www.W9UUU.org](http://www.W9UUU.org).

**Sunday Night Net Manager:** John VanSandt - N9YRX

**WVARA Members**

Please send a picture of you operating your station. I want to have a regular featured Member Ham each month. Include any information about you including how long licensed, equipment, location, favorite operating activity, etc.

**WVARA Meeting**

**June 2, 2017**

**Pitch-In Dinner 6:00 PM**

**That means bring food in a dish  
Club will provide meat products**

**Program**

**at**

**Glas-Col**

**Reminder: No club meeting in July!**

**There will be a VE session on July 8, 2017**

**WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – 2017**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (Mo/Dy/Yr) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Year first licensed \_\_\_\_\_ Year of last WVARA membership \_\_\_\_\_

New Member? [ ] ARRL 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?[ ]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL? [ ]

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!

**NOTICE: All members must submit to a criminal background check as a condition of membership.**

## WVARA VE 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 8<sup>th</sup> St.

For further info contact:

Ray Andrews, K9DUR: 812-236-6522

## Terre Haute Radio Club VE Testing

(Walk-ins Welcome)

Terre Haute, Indiana

2nd Thursday of every month

7:00 P.M., Indiana time

Storage Solutions South

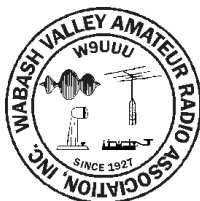
5457 South State Road 63

(just south of the prison)

For further info contact Ginger Monastyrski, WB9ZHC at 812-243-9052 or [WB9ZHC@yahoo.com](mailto:WB9ZHC@yahoo.com)

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



## June 2017

2017 = 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.