

Spark Gap

Volume 25, Issue 8, August 2008 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*

July RACES Test



Jack Parker, W8ISH,
President, MARC

The Indiana state RACES group and Homeland Security conducted their semi-annual communications test July 25th. Johnson County responded in good form. Bob LeGrange-N9SIU took check-ins from base and mobile units around the county.

Since our HF radio system at the Johnson County EOC radio room does not support 80 meters we took our HF radios into the field. Steve-K9KY and Jack-W8ISH set up their HF rigs and wire antennas in a shelter on the hill at Independence Park near Center Grove High School. The park trees made excellent vertical supports for at least one 40 meter

antenna. Jack used a portable base and push-up mast for a dual band antenna and 80 meter inverted-V antenna.

Band conditions were bad on 40 meters. For the first time in a long time 80 meters was clear. Both stations reported Bob's check-in total of 17 reporting stations. The same report was transmitted to state RACES via 2-meter simplex.

Several club hams joined the park outing. Marc KC9CCM, Steve N9LC, Bob KC9NJM and new comer Brian KC9OAG. Everyone helped with the field day set up and tear down. Future half day outings to field test equipment and quick set up procedures are being planned.

-w8ish

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org



(l-r) Jack W8ISH, Steve N9LC, Dave KB9LOT, Bob KC9NJM and Steve K9DY. Marc KC9CCM took the picture. Steve used his Ten-Tec for 40 meters while Jack captured 80 meters on his Kenwood rig.

Fifth Annual National Preparedness Month Coming in September



ARRL: (August 2008)--The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced in July that more than 1200 national, regional, state and local businesses and organizations — including several

Amateur Radio groups — have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition. Sponsored by the department's Ready campaign, National Preparedness Month helps to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses and communities on emergency preparedness.

"As we approach our fifth National Preparedness Month, I want to thank the hundreds of coalition members who are making a difference in their communities by helping raise the basic level of preparedness in our country," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Individual preparedness is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness. Experience shows that if Americans take steps ahead of time, they stand a much better chance of coming through an emergency unharmed and recovering more quickly."

"The Ready campaign and Citizen Corps are specifically encouraging individuals across the nation to take important preparedness steps," said ARRL Public Relations and Media Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. "These steps include getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, as well as taking the necessary steps to get trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts."

National Preparedness Month Coalition

members have agreed to distribute emergency preparedness information and sponsor activities across the country that will promote emergency preparedness. Membership is open to all public and private sector organizations. Sign up your club or ARES group now! Groups and individuals can register to become members by visiting the Ready Web site and clicking on the National Preparedness Month banner. Information is also available by phone at 1-800-BE-READY or 1-888-SE-LISTO (in Spanish).

According to Pitts, linking up with the Ready.gov people and participating in September's National Preparedness Month is "an easy win. The federal people are already doing all the hard work. All you really have to do is sign up. Most clubs and ARES groups are already doing activities which fit into their structure, so why not get credit for your actions? Of course, if you do something more with this opportunity, so much the better! But you have to sign your group in and no one can do that for you. There are hundreds of ARES groups and clubs in the country. Wouldn't it be fun to have even 70 percent of them sign up and get noticed?" ■

Thank You!

Thanks to the White River Township Fire Department Station #51 for allowing us to hold our Spring and Summer Technician classes in your basement classroom on Olive Branch Road. Your staff is extremely friendly, very helpful and especially nice for putting up with our coming and goings as we work to support our hobby and service by increasing the number of licensed amateurs in the local community.

We look forward to being able to assist you through our SKYWARN and other emergency communication activities.

Your support is greatly appreciated! ■

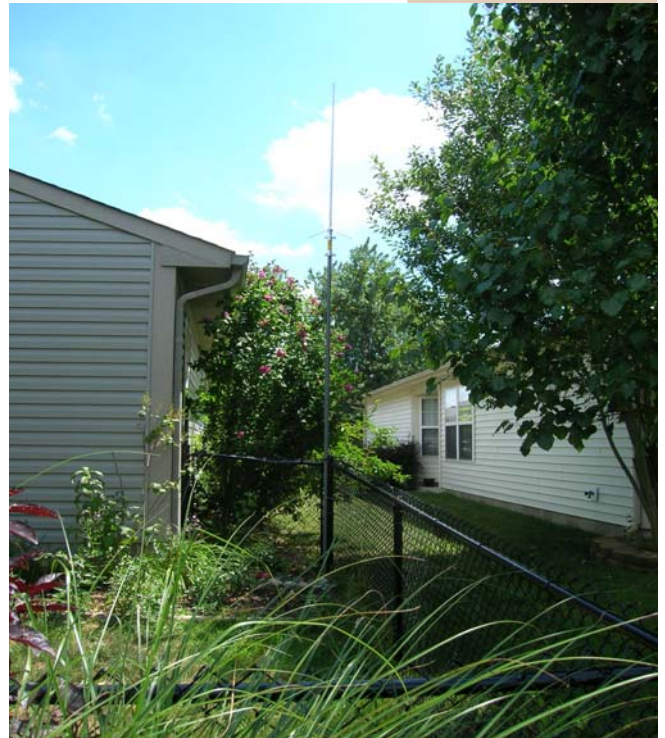
New Installation



Above is Jack Parker W8ISH, Steve Carmean K9DY and Dave Dailey KB9LOT installing a Diamond X-50A antenna at the house of Linda Harshbarger KC9GCH. These wonderful guys showed up on a beautiful Saturday morning (August 2nd) to get Linda's antenna & new base station set up at her house.

Photo at right shows a completed antenna installation. Photo at the bottom is Linda's new base station, an ICOM 208H dual band radio with an Astron RS-20M power supply.

Thanks guys!



ARRL Section News

**IN-ARRL BULLETIN 13-2008
10:43AM EDT 4 AUGUST 2008 de
KB9BVN**

Just a reminder that the nominations for the position of Indiana ARRL Section Manager will be open until September 5th, 2008. If you are interested in making a nomination and/or running for this position, please visit the ARRL website and submit your nomination. The new SM will be installed in January 2009 and will serve for 18 months. The next SM election will then be held in June of 2010.

Remember, you must be a current ARRL member to run for any ARRL position, and you must be an ARRL member to be eligible to vote in this, and all ARRL elections. More information on the SM nomination/election process and procedures are found at this link: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/smterms.html>.

So far to the best of my knowledge we only have two candidates running:
John Poindexter W3ML - Knox Indiana
<http://www.w3ml.com/>

Ray Andrews K9DUR - West Terre Haute
Indiana <http://www.qsl.net/k9dur/>

Brian Murrey - KB9BVN
IN-ARRL Bulletin Manager

IRCC News

The next meeting of the Indiana Radio Club Council (IRCC) will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the WISH-TV studios in Indianapolis, IN.

All Indiana clubs are invited to join and participate in the IRCC. Each member club may send club representatives to the biannual meeting. All interested attendees will be treated to a tour of the WISH-TV studios by Jack Parker, W8ISH.

Wanted

Russ Eberhart, N9IV, is looking for FT-243 crystals in the 80M and 40M CW bands to purchase. He recently put a Johnson Viking Adventurer transmitter with a Drake 2B receiver as part of a ca. 1960 novice station (crystal-controlled. If you have any of these crystals and would want to sell them, please email Russ at reberhar@iupui.edu. Below is a photo of his setup.



IMS Radio News

This update in from Brian Smith, W9IND and the IMS Radio Club.

Our third and final special event of the year, commemorating the first-ever MotoGP motorcycle race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, will be going on throughout the weekend of September 12-14, especially between Friday night and Sunday afternoon. Feel free to drop by and perhaps even operate at our Comm Center, located near 34th and Keystone.

Directions are simple: Starting at that intersection, just go east on 34th Street, slow down when you see Olney Street and turn right (south) at the next street, Gale, even though it says DEAD END. Continue south for a block (it'll look like a country lane) until you run out of road. Then park your car in the grass to the right (in front of the vacant home). The Comm Center is the first building on your left. If you'd rather MapQuest it, the address is 3321 N. Gale Street.

Officers

President:
Jack Parker,
W8ISH

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Carol Osborne,
KC9CFK

Treasurer:
Steve Carmean,
K9DY

Repeater Trustee:
Jay Chrisman,
AA9YP

Spark Gap Editors:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

Hamfest Info

The **38th Lafayette Hamfest** takes place on August 17, 2008 at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, 1401 Teal Road (SR 25), Lafayette, Indiana. Times are from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00 with children under 12 admitted free. The Hamfest is at the north end of the fairgrounds (by the YMCA) in the Home Economics building. Talk-in frequency will be on the W9REG repeater 147.135+ MHz (88.5 PL). More information is available at www.w9reg.org.

The **Owen-Monroe Amateur Radio Hamfest** will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008 from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Owen County Fairgrounds in Spencer, IN. This hamfest is co-sponsored by the Owen County Amateur Radio Association and the Bloomington Amateur Radio Club. General admission is \$5.00. Talk-in will be on the KB9MZZ repeater 146.985 MHz (136.5 Hz PL). For more information contact Katie Smith, K9INU, at e-mail k9inu@arrl.net.

The **Ripley County Amateur Radio Club, RCARC**, will hold its first annual Tailgators Hamfest on August 23, 2008. The hamfest will be held at the Ripley County 4H Fairgrounds located at 524 Beech Street, Osgood, IN. Hamfest hours are from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Talk-in is at 441.775 with no PL tone required. Admission is \$3.00 per person. Parking is free. For more information contact John Reid, N9SFW at martind28@gmail.com.

The **2nd Annual East Center Illinois Hamfest** will be held on Sunday, August 24, 2008 at the Vermilion County Fairgrounds in Danville, Illinois. Hamfest hours are from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM CDT. Directions: I-74 to exit 210, turn left, 1/4 mile on right. Follow signs for fairgrounds. Talk-in is at W9MJL/R 146.820 - MHz (88.5 Hz PL). Admission is \$5.00 with children 12 and under free. For more information go to www.vcara-hamfest-info.

VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. Please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org for directions. ■

Technician Class

Summer classes ended on August 12 with 9 students testing and 9 students passing. We started with 11 students signing up and 9 finishing the course. One student dropped out as she passed her test prior to the class starting. Stephanie Brown (daughter of Steve Brown, N9LC) is now KC9OAE.

Another class will be held in either late October/November or in late February/March. Please watch our webpage for details. The new 4 class schedule with the earlier time (6:30 PM start from 7:00 PM start) seems to work better for both students and instructors.. Arranging the chapters so that no two large chapters are taught on the same night also seems to work quite well. Students seemed pleased with the notebook with slides printed out and the handouts given out each night.

Thanks to the instructors who gave of their time to teach. They include Jack Parker, W8ISH; Steve Carmean, K9DY; Bob LaGrange, N9SIU; Marc Snell, KC9CCM; Dave Wendt, KA9OOH; and Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH. Thanks go out to our VEC team (Jack, Steve and Dave) for testing our students. A special thanks to VE Jim Kerr, N1IU who came out to support the class and helped with testing. Thanks also to the other members of the club who came to support the classes. ■

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone

Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM ET

Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors a weekly traffic and social net on our repeater. The net begins at 7:00 p.m. local time, and features local news, announcements, and NTS traffic, as well as rebroadcasts of Amateur Radio Newsline. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills.

2008 Schedule of Events

AUGUST 2008

- 16 MARC Meeting - 8 AM**
VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 17 38th Annual Lafayette Hamfest, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Lafayette, IN
- 23-24 Indianapolis Air Show**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at www.Indyhams.org for more information or to volunteer
- 23 Ripley County Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) 1st Annual Tailgators Hamfest, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM** Ripley County 4H Fairgrounds, 524 Beech Street, Osgood, IN
Talk-in on 441.775 (no PL)
- 23 Owen-Monroe Amateur Radio Hamfest, 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM**
Owen County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IN; Talk-in on 146.985 MHz (136.5 PL)
- 24 2008 East Central Illinois Hamfest, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**
Vermilion County Fairgrounds, Danville, IN; Talk in on W9MJL/R 146.820 MHz (88.5 PL)

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sept. National Preparedness Month

- 1 Labor Day**
- 20 MARC Meeting/Picnic/Election of Officers - 11 AM**
Picnic/meeting location to be announced (visit our website for location)
VEC Testing prior to the picnic (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am) at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 20-21 50th Annual Peoria, IL Superfest, Saturday 7:00 AM - Dusk; Sunday 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM** Exposition Gardens, 1601 W. Northmoor Road, Peoria, IL,
Talk-in on 147.075+ (PL103.5)
- 20 Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day**
- 22 Autumn begins**
- 27 Greenwood Band Contest**
Greenwood High School, Greenwood, IN
Please contact Bob LaGrange at N9SIU@yahoo.com
- 28 Greenfield, IN Hamfest, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
Hancock County 4H Fairgrounds, Talk-in on 145.330



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Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.