

# Spark Gap

Volume 25, Issue 1, January 2008 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*

## FORECAST '08!



Jack Parker,  
W8ISH, MARC  
President

*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](http://www.midstatehams.org)

**Forecast '08** shows a busy year for the Mid-State ARC. Here's what we have working in the next few months. First, we need to get our new VHF antenna straightened up and flying right. Heavy winds in November pushed

the 940-foot antenna into a horizontal position. Finding a tower crew who will work for peanuts to set the antenna upright has been a major hang-up. With this in mind we are ordering an even better 4-bay dipole antenna and hardline to replace the previous installation. The repeater committee plans to use part of the Grant money from the Johnson County Foundation for that installation. At the same time repeater trustee Jay Chrisman AA9YP will replace our current low power repeater with a rebuilt GE MastrII unit. That should boost our output power to better than sixty watts.

Beginning in January Brian Murrey KB9BVN will help club members construct a multi-meter. This is the first step to building a low power HF transceiver. Several club members claim they need a course on how to solder. This easy to build project is a good start. I would encourage all club members to try this kit-building project.

In February, veteran scout leaders Brian-KB9BVN and Marc Snell-KC9CMM will participate in an all night Boy Scout lock-

in at Greenwood High School. They plan to introduce amateur radio to as many scouts as possible. Linda, KC9GCH, will be on hand to hand out ham information to the scouts. We hope our club members will help make contacts with the shut-in scouts.

As we swing into spring, Emergency Management Director Tug Sutton plans to offer the annual Skywarn Training for ham radio spotters. This follows on the heels of a new CERT training class. CERT Trainer Matt Payne-KB9UJE introduced the Citizen

Emergency Response Team during our December meeting. Now it is time to sign up for this valuable first responder training. Contact Jack W8ISH or Linda Harshbarger KC9GCH if you plan to take the multi-hour course.

MARC's VEC team will be at the Columbus Hamfest at the end of March, 2008, doing their thing.

That's a pretty full plate for the first quarter of the year. More opportunities for emergency response training and kit building projects are planned. Don't forget the annual Strawberry Festival in June and July 4th activities in Greenwood. We may even squeeze in a Hill Topper all-mode half-day event in May. All this leads to Field Day '08 in late June.

Charge up your batteries and hang on. This promises to be a busy year for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. It's success depends on you.

Jack Parker,  
MARC Prez

**2008  
Begins!**

## ARRL Winter Catalog Now Online

ARRL (Jan 3, 2008) — Take a virtual tour of ARRL's new Winter Catalog online. This online catalog is the same as the paper catalog that is available at ARRL HQ and at hamfests around the country. You can browse the entire 20 page catalog using your web browser and the easy-to-use on-screen navigation controls. According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, "The eCatalog technology is

commonly used to browse weekly store circulars and newspaper ads. Eventually, the ARRL eCatalog may be auto-linked to the ARRL eStore, making it even easier to locate and order ARRL publications and products." Flip through the catalog that showcases each ARRL publication, including such classics as the 2008 ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications, The ARRL Antenna Book — 21st Edition and The ARRL Operating Manual for Radio Amateurs — 9th Edition, but also new titles like , Tower Climbing Safety and Rescue, and the 2007 ARRL Periodicals on CD-ROM. Check out titles published by the RSGB and DARC, as well as others, including the popular "For Dummies" series. You can also get the paper Winter Catalog by calling ARRL at 888-277-5289 (non-US 860-594-0355) during regular business hours.

**NOTE:** Linda, KC9GCH, has received brochures from the ARRL. The Brochures include:

- Scouting and Amateur Radio
- Wireless Excitement with Amateur Radio
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- "Hello" Brochures - General Info on Amateur Radio
- Flyers on ARRL study guides in order to receive your license
- EMCOMM Brochures

If you know of anyone interested in Amateur Radio, get a packet from Linda. ■

## MARC Homebrew Event

At the January, 2008 meeting, Brian Murrey, KB9BVN will be asking members if they are interested in doing a group kit building project. The first project will be aimed at beginning builders, and will leave each participant with a piece of working test gear that can be used on the bench all the time.

If you are interested in being in this group, please contact Brian Murrey, KB9BVN at kb9bvn@gmail.com or Marc Snell, KC9CCM, at slmk8@mw.net and get your name on the list.

We will need at least 6 people to participate, and the cost of this project will be in the \$25 to \$30 range at the most. If you have never soldered a part in your life, or if you are a seasoned builder, this will be a lot of fun. Don't miss out.

73 de KB9BVN ■



Get your name on the list and join us in building this item after the February meeting!



### 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 Editor:**  
Bob LaGrange,  
N9SIU

## Annual Dues

It's that time again. Club dues are now due for 2008. Please see the club treasurer, Steve Carmean, K9DY, at the December meeting and pay your club dues at that time. Full member dues at \$18.00 per year for membership in MARC.

Full members are those who have a valid amateur radio license. Full members may vote and hold office. Associate members are those who are licensed and/or unlicensed without the privilege of voting and/or holding license. Associate member dues are \$10.00 per year.

MARC also has a category for family members. Family members are persons related to and living in the same household as a full member. Family members may not vote or hold office.

Another category of membership is available. Honorary Lifetime Members may be nominated at any regular meeting. Such nominations must be made by a full member of MARC. This status is intended to be an exceptional honor, in recognition of especially meritorious and distinguished contributions of the nominee of the club. A majority vote of members present and voting is required to confer this status.

An Honorary Lifetime Member shall pay no dues and shall retain all the privileges of full membership. A Dues Exempt Membership is also available. Please see our Treasurer for details.

### Updating Club Roster

We will continue updating our club roster in January 2008. Linda, KC9GCH, will have membership forms for all paid members to fill out at the January 2008 meeting. Please fill out the forms and turn them in to our Treasurer, Steve, K9DY.

Also on hand will be applications for ARES/RACES. If your information has changed, or if you wish to join, please see Linda for a forms. Completed forms should be given to Bob LaGrange, N9SIU.

## 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. For directions to the meeting and/or test site, please check out our website at [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org).

## NWS Info

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Indianapolis will hold it's next installment of the Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium, an all day session, on Saturday, March 1st, 2008 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Valle Vista Conference Center, 775 East Main Street, Greenwood, Indiana. The Symposium is cosponsored by the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Service in Indianapolis. This Symposium will be geared towards providing more advance information for spotters. More information and the registration form are available at [www.crh.noaa.gov](http://www.crh.noaa.gov). Early registration fee is \$30 but must be received by February 1, 2008.

### Annual Spotter Classes

Don't forget about 2008 Spotter Classes. NWS will be announcing those places and dates shortly, so be sure to watch the NWS website. I'm sure Tug Sutton will schedule one session with them to be held at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency in Franklin, IN.

Date and time will be listed on the schedule of events as soon as announced.

**WA9RDF**  
**Repeater**  
**146.835/**  
**146.235 MHz**  
**151.4 Hz PL**  
**Tone**

**Weekly Net**  
**Every Sunday**  
**at 7PM EST**

***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.*

## Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time.

This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills.

Newsline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby.

For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to

[netcontrol@midstatehams.org](mailto:netcontrol@midstatehams.org) and we will record your check-in!



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*Spark Gap*

# 2008 Schedule of Events

## JANUARY 2008

- 1** **MARC begins its TWENTY-FIFTH year in February!**
- 19** **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**  
VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)  
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 19** **IDHS Ham Radio Test Net - 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM**  
Counties set up/run nets - Net Control check in with ISDH Net Control with stats  
N1HQH, IDHS Net Control, 146.760

## FEBRUARY 2008

- 9** **5K Mini Marathon, Indianapolis, IN**  
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at [www.Indyhams.org](http://www.Indyhams.org) for more information or to volunteer
- 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
- 18** **MARC begins its 25th Year today!**
- 23** **Cabin Fever Hamfest, LaPorte, IN**  
See [www.k9jsi.org](http://www.k9jsi.org) for more information; Talk-in 146.610 (PL131.8) or 146.520 Simplex
- 29** **Boy Scouts - Merit Badge Lock-in**  
Greenwood High School, Greenwood, IN  
Be on the air, 146.835 from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM and help the boy scouts earn their Radio Merit Badge; KB9BVN, KC9CCM, and KC9GCH will be at the high school.

## MARCH 2008

- 1** **National Weather Service Spotter Symposium, Valle Vista, Greenwood, IN**  
See NWS website at [www.crh.noaa.gov](http://www.crh.noaa.gov) for more information; Early registration fee is \$30
- 1** **Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Sullivan, IN**  
See [www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html](http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html) for more information. Talk-in on 146.775 (PL136.5)
- 1** **10K Mini Marathon, Indianapolis, IN**  
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at [www.Indyhams.org](http://www.Indyhams.org) for more information or to volunteer
- 15** **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**  
VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)  
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 29** **Columbus Hamfest, Columbus, IN**  
More details to follow next month; MARCs VEC Team will be there testing.

## 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](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.**