

Spark Gap

Volume 26, Issue 1, January 2009 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*

In The Beginning...25 Years Later



Jack Parker W8ISH,
Field Day 2004

*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

In the beginning...February 18, 1984 at the House of Franklin, 18 members of the Johnson County Radio Club ARES group met to form an amateur radio club. Elections were held, dues were established (\$5.00/year), a regular club meeting date was determined and a Field Day location was discussed. The following month a name was selected...MARC...the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. And so it began.

There have been many changes in the past 25 years. The club has a repeater call sign that once belonged to a founding club member (WA9RDF), and thanks to the hard work of a former member and past President (KB9SKI), the club has tax exempt status, 501(c)(3). The tax exempt status and the hard work of another member (N9SIU) brought us a grant from the Johnson County Community Foundation. The grant provided

the club with necessary funds to move our repeater to a higher location again with the help of many club members including, W8ISH, K9DY and our repeater trustee, AA9YP.

2008 was a year of public service events for the club including SKYWARN activations, Severe Weather Community Day, Pumpkin Patrol, WRT FD Strawberry Festival and Homeland Security EOC Table Top Exercises. Three technician classes were held, Field Day happened and a Hilltopper event occurred.

Our VE team held sessions after each club meeting, at the Columbus Hamfest, and showed up to test students at the end of each technician class. Their efforts resulted in 42 new Technicians, 24 new Generals, and 5 new Extras for a total of 71 licenses awarded.

As for the club, MARC ended the year with 50 paid members, 7 honorary life members, and 24 complimentary members (students from technician classes) for a total membership of 81. What a way to start 2009 and our next 25 years!



A picture from MARC's past...WB9YIG and NT9J at a bike race. Photo from W8ISH.

MARC Photos



Officers

President:
Jack Parker,
W8ISH

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Jacki Frederick,
KI6QOG

Treasurer:
Steve Carmean,
K9DY

Repeater Trustee:
Jay Chrisman,
AA9YP

Spark Gap Editors:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH



Hamfest Info

The **Dugger Amateur Radio Club's 2009 Hamfest** will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at the Sullivan Fairgrounds in Sullivan, Indiana. Hamfest opens at 7:00 AM. Talk-in is at 146.775 - MHz (136.5 Hz PL). Admission is \$5.00 with children 12 and under free. For more information go to www.kc9ak.or/hamfest.html website.

The **Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association** will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds, 3901 US Highway 41 South in Teere Haute, Indiana. Talk-in is on 146.685 MHz (151.4 Hz PL). For more information contact Ginger Downing, WB9ZHC at wb9zhc@verizon.net.

The **26th Annual Columbus Hamfest** will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds, Community Building, 750 W 200S in Columbus, Indiana. Hamfest hours are 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Talk-in will be on 146.79 MHz (-600 kHz 100 Hz PL). Tickets that day are \$5.00 or \$4.50 in advance. For more information contact Marion Winterber, WD9HTN at carc_in@yahoo.com.

The MARC VE team will be at the Columbus Hamfest testing that day.

If you know of any other Indiana hamfests coming up, please contact Linda at PIO@midstatehams.org.

Club Dues

It's that time again to support the club and the club repeater by paying yearly dues. Dues are still \$18.00/year. Please see Steve Carmean K9DY, at the January meeting. Thanks for your support! It's greatly appreciated.

When paying dues, please let Steve know if you are a member of the ARRL. We continue our Special Services Club status with 50% or greater membership in the ARRL. An ARRL membership helps to support the hobby and allows us to purchase textbooks for a discount that is extended to the students.

VEC Testing

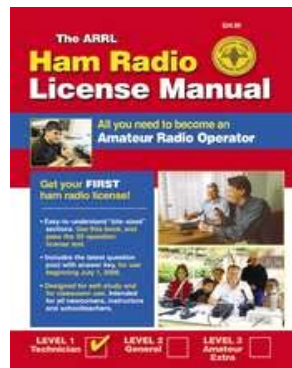
Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin 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

Spring classes should begin sometime between the middle of February to the middle of March. As soon as a firm start date is known, information will be placed on our website. The class schedule will include 1 class per week for 4 weeks (6:30 PM to 8:30 PM). The club will again be purchasing books so if you know someone who wants to attend, have them get a hold of KC9GCH, Linda at 887-2558. Classes are limited to 14 students.

Linda will firm up the start date by the end of January and securing instructors. If you haven't yet taught a class but would like to do so, please let her know. The manual includes 7 chapters and we try to have a different instructor for each chapter.

There is a generic flyer on our website so if you know of anyone with an interest in becoming a ham, please print it out and pass it along. ■



**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.

2009 Schedule of Events

JANUARY 2009

- 1** **New Year's Day**
- 3-4** **ARRL RTTY Roundup**
Go to www.arrl.org for details
- 4** **ARRL Kid's Day**
Go to www.arrl.org for details
- 17** **MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 19** **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**
- 20** **Presidential Inauguration**

FEBRUARY 2009

- 7** **Mini-Marathon 5K Pre-Race**
Contact Mike Palmer N9FEB at www.indyham.org for details
- 14** **St. Valentine's Day**
- 16** **President's Day**
- 18** **MARC 25th Anniversary!**
- 21** **MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

MARCH 2009

- 5** **Dugger Amateur Radio Club's Hamfest, Sullivan, IN**
Sullivan Fairgrounds, Sullivan, IN Opens 7:00 AM; Talk-in 146.775 (PL 136.5)
- 5** **Mini-Marathon 10K Pre-Race**
Contact Mike Palmer N9FEB at www.indyham.org for details
- 14** **Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association (WVARA), Terre Haute, IN**
Wabash Valley Fairgrounds, 3901 US Hwy 41 South, Terre Haute, IN
Talk-in 146.685 (PL 151.4) For more info contact wb9zhc@verizon.net
- 21** **MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 28** **Columbus Hamfest, Columbus, IN**
Bartholomew County Fairgrounds, Columbus, IN; Talk-in on 146.79 (PL 100)
MARC's VE Team will be there testing.



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317.887.2558

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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.