

Spark Gap

Volume 26, Issue 7, July 2009 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*

Field Day 2009



Field Day '09 wasn't a total bust. Linda KC9GCH, Chris KG6ZIJ, Bob N9SIU and I all bought ARRL Field Day '09 t-shirts. We were probably the best-dressed hams not attending a real field day.

The MARC '09 Field Day was cancelled as a result of too many family scheduling conflicts among members. It didn't help that Chief HF operator Steve Carmean-K9DY gave into family pressure and skipped off to Alaska for a cool cruise.

Actually, a couple of us did put family plans on ice for a few hours and ventured out to experience this national radio weekend. While visiting relatives in Ohio my brother Don KB8PSL and I spent a little time with the Southwestern Ohio ARA group at Wright State University. They had all the trappings of a classic field day. Their antenna arsenal included several wire antennas strung through the trees and a short tower section strapped to a shelter support with 2-meter and 70 cm beams.

The Buckeye state seemed to be a popular place for radio activity. At last report Brian Murrey KB9BVN and Ivan Flint W9ILF were headed east with their Tuna can transmitters to join the Flying Pigs in Ohio for their traditional QRP Field Day.

MARC Field Day coordinator Bob Jones KC9NJM expressed disappointment

when the club decided to can our plans. We thank Bob Jones, Chris Frederick, Steve Carmean and Linda Harshbarger for their planning efforts the past six months. Maybe Field Day 2010 will be the beginning of something big. Mark your calendars for June 26 & 27, 2010.

-Jack w8ish

Note: Something is happening with the photos to be included in the newsletter. Until the problem is solved a separate page will include all photos and a placemaker noted in the newsletter. Sorry for the inconvenience. Editor.

Photo 1

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Photo 2

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*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

Strawberry Fest

For all practical purposes the MARC tent and radio demo during the Strawberry Festival June 13th looked like a real field day. This was the 17th annual White River Township Fire Department Strawberry Festival. MARC has been a part of the festival, demonstrating Amateur Radio, for sixteen of those years. Our relationship with the White River department grew even closer two years ago when they allowed us to erect our repeater antenna on their new communications tower behind station #51 on Olive Branch Road.

Thanks to the efforts of Chris-KG6ZIJ and Steve-K9DY we had two HF stations operating all day from the festival site. Linda-KC9GCH set up several information panels displaying pictures and information about club activities. Bob-KC9NJM and Jack-W8ISH took turns working the 40 meter band while Steve vacated his seat. Chris dominated the 20 meter band activity.

Steve Carmean finally put his military style mast to good use. Under the supervision of Ed Woods-WD9DVA a cadre of club members pieced the 30-foot mast together. Club members walked the mast up and tied off the support lines then ran wire antennas over to the mast on the EMA Communications Vehicle. Jack -W8ISH brought a quick-up tripod stand to establish a 2-meter base antenna. In less than an hour our field ready radio station was established and on the air.

For the rest of the day we had it made-in-the-shade. Those not looking for rare DX spent their time lounging in camping chairs and talking ham radio to visitors and fellow club members. The nearby strawberries, ice cream, hamburgers and hot dogs added to the event.

While holding down the tent operation, several members took time to give Johnson County residents a tour through the Johnson County Mobile Communications and Command Vehicle parked nearby. It provided us an opportunity to check out the Amateur

Radio operating station in the vehicle. All systems were given a thumbs up.

The fire department web page has already listed the club for next years Strawberry Festival. Thanks to all those that came out to operate, visit and support the club and fire department.

-w8ish

Photo 3

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Photo 4

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Photo 5

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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

Class Update

I am getting requests for another Technician level amateur radio class. Let's plan on having a class in September beginning the week after Labor Day. If you know of anyone wishing to take a class, please have them contact me at 317-887-2558 or at PIO@midstatehams.org.

Class size is limited to 14 students so registration will close when all 14 spaces are filled. We will again be purchasing textbooks in late August so anyone needing a book that has preregistered will be able to get a textbook from us just prior to the class. So spread the word.

Class location has not been confirmed but we will once again try to obtain the training room located in the White River Township Fire Department located at State Road 135 and Olive Branch Road.

Photo 6

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Hamfest/Event Info

The **39th Annual Indianapolis Hamfest (Indianapolis Communications and Technology Expo)** will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2009 at Camp Sertoma, US52 and German Church Road, Indianapolis, Indiana. Gates open at 6 AM. License testing will be offered OFF-SITE during the show from 9 AM to noon. Walk-ins are always welcome. A shuttle service will be provided. All applicants must have a photo ID. License upgrade applicants must bring their original license and a copy, plus any CSCEs.

There will be several forums during the event. Scheduled are the following:

- 9:00 AM D-Star Forum
 - 10:00 AM DX Forum
 - 11:00 AM Combined MARS Meeting
 - 12:00 PM Indiana Radio Club Council
 - 1:00 PM Indiana Repeater Council
- All forums are open to everyone.

Talk-in will be on 146.76 (-600); GPS coordinates are 39-44-21 N and 085-58-16 W.

For additional information call the Hamfest Hotline at 317-261-6658. ■

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. ■

**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.

K9DY and W8ISH at Columbus. Photo by Mrs. K9DY.

2009 Schedule of Events

JULY 2009

4 Independence Day

11 39th Annual Indianapolis Hamfest

Camp Sertoma, US52 and German Church Road, Indianapolis, IN

18 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)

AUGUST 2009

15 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)

SEPTEMBER 2009

19 MARC Meeting - 11:00 AM, Franklin, IN

VEC Testing from 8:00 AM to 11 AM. Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. Meeting will be the annual picnic and election of officers. Location for picnic to be announced.

22 Fall begins

OCTOBER 2009

10 Lake County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

10 IRCC Meeting Starke County Library 2-4 PM

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)

17 Indianapolis Marathon

Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB to volunteer or for more details. www.indyhams.org

31 Halloween (Goblin Patrol)

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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.

July 2009 Newsletter – Photo Pages

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3





Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

