

Spark Gap

Volume 25, Issue 6, June 2008 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*

June Brings Severe Weather



Jack Parker, W8ISH,
President, MARC

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



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
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www.midstatehams.org

June came in with a roar beginning early on Friday, May 30, 2008 with severe weather in the form of thunderstorms and tornadoes. Johnson County took a glancing blow with the west side of Marion County and Hancock County bearing the blunt of the

storms. An estimated \$29 million in damages led the news in the papers the next day. 70,000 customers lost power in Marion County and 12,000 lost power in Hancock, Hamilton, Hendricks and Johnson County. Johnson County brought up a net that lasted 29 minutes with 10 base and 1 mobile reporting. KC9LGZ, Grant Black operated as net control.

Just as the full extent of the Friday night storms were being reported, another round of severe weather hit Central Indiana on Tuesday, June 3, 2008. Waldron and Middleton in Shelby County were hit by a EF0 intensity tornado. The same tornado then intensified to an EF3 and hit near Moscow in Rush County. Another tornado (EF1) touched down near Clarksburg in northeast Decatur County. Johnson County took a huge hit when an EF2 tornado touched down at Camp Attebury and then continued on into Edinburg as an EF1. Before getting to Camp Attebury, the same tornado hit near Peoga in northeast Brown County. Once again Johnson County brought up a net, this time for 51 minutes with 13 base and 7 mobile reporting. Net control was Grant Black, KC9LGZ.

Moving on to Friday, June 6, 2008, severe weather was again in the forecast. Johnson County again brought up a net. Statistics are unknown at this time. It appeared the worst weather would pass us without doing much damage.

However, the Friday night storms brought rain, rain which continued through the area on and off on Friday night, started up again about 4:30 AM and continued and continued and continued.

Johnson County brought up a net on Saturday morning, June 7 as the reports of flooding started to come in. Statistics are not yet in on how many amateurs worked the net on Saturday or how long the net lasted. What is known is that a lot of hams worked long hours reporting and relaying information to the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency in Franklin, Indiana. Rain continued until midday and rivers and streams kept rising.

Johnson Memorial Hospital suffered flooding and Columbus Regional Hospital was evacuated. Princes Lake suffered tornado damage from earlier storms and dam failure on Saturday.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our net and offered their time and talent to help others.

-Linda, KC9GCH

Note: Wondering why Jack's picture is on the page when Linda is the article author? A little bird told me that Jack will be celebrating a milestone birthday this month. So I think he deserves the front page. Happy Birthday, Jack!

ARRL Section News

ARRL Bulletin 11: May 22, 2008.

Nominations for the Indiana Section Manager position will be resolicited in the July issue of QST for an 18-month term of office beginning in January 2009. If you know of anyone appropriate for this position, please check out the information in the July QST. This will be the second round of nominations for the Indiana Section.

IRCC News

Indiana Radio Club Council (IRCC).

Deadline for nominations for the 2008 IRCC Technical Excellence Award is June 13th. For the past seven years the IRCC has selected one Hoosier Amateur Radio Operator to receive this prestigious award during the July 12 the Indianapolis Hamfest at Camp Sertoma.

To qualify send a detailed explanation of how this person uses their technical abilities to help their club, community or other amateur radio operators. This award is for the unsung heroes that continue to give of their time, talents and technical expertise to make a difference in amateur radio. Please be as detailed as possible when writing the candidates qualifications.

Entries will be judged on technical ability, hours of contribution, individual or organization served and extent of contribution(s). Include an e-mail address for both the honoree and submitting author so we may notify all individuals.

Deadline is midnight, Friday, June 13, 2008. E-mail your entry to w9eeu@arrl.net or pgradams@aol.com.

The above information was shared with us from Gary Adams, W9EEU, IRCC Vice-Chairman.

The Mid-state Amateur Radio Club is a member of the Indiana Radio Club Council and fully supports all their activities.

New Nets/Clubs

New 6 Meter Net in the Indy Area.

Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, has reported a new 6 meter net on frequency 52.700 (out) 51.700 (in with no PL). The net is on the air each Wednesday night. The time the net starts is not known so if anyone has that information, please let us know. Bob reported that it worked very well from the Southside and that there are several remote receive locations are throughout the Indy area so performance should be good just about anywhere in the city.

Ripley County Amateur Radio Club

(RCARC). There is a new amateur radio club in Ripley County. Meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month at the American Red Cross building in Versailles, Indiana. This is located on the courthouse square. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Their repeater is located just southeast of Napoleon, Indiana and frequency is +441.775. They have a net each Sunday evening at 7:00 PM. RCARC has 5 volunteer examiners available. Contact WY9L at wy9l.thebigdog@gmail.com for more information. If traveling through the area, they would welcome your QSL on their repeater.

South Central Indiana Amateur Radio League (SCIRL). Located in Seymour (Jackson County) Indiana, this club operates the KI9G repeater, frequency +147.135 (PL 103.5). Weekly net will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00 PM. If in the area, please check in on their net. Contact WY9L at wy9l.thebigdog@gmail.com for more information.

From the editor. We welcome information on all area nets and amateur radio clubs, new or established. If you have new information, additional information or corrected information, please contact KC9GCH at PIO@midstatehams.org.

Rideshare. Also if anyone is travelling to an area hamfest and would welcome riders, please let me know. I would welcome catching a ride (and sharing costs) and others might as well.

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 annual Indianapolis Communications & Technology Expo and Hamfest** will take place on July 12, 2008 at Camp Sertoma, US 52 and German Church Road, Indianapolis, IN. Gates open at 6 AM EDT. Talk-in will be on the 146.76 (-600) repeater.

Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$8 at the gate. Children under 12 are admitted free. Go to www.indyhamfest.com for more information or call 317-261-6658 and leave a message.

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 **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. For directions to the meeting and/or test site, please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org.

Technician Class

We currently are getting requests to hold a second class, possibly beginning after the July 4th weekend. If you are interested in taking a class or know someone who is interested, please call Linda at 887-2558 or e-mail to kc9gch@arrl.net. If we have at least 10 students confirmed the class will be scheduled.

Volunteer Info

MARC has several events coming up where volunteers will be needed. To volunteer, please contact Jack Parker, W8ISH, at president@midstatehams.org or Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH, at pio@midstatehams.org.

Saturday, June 14th - White River Strawberry Festival at Pleasant Grove Elementary School. Activities are from 9 AM to 10:30 PM, however we probably won't be there that late in the evening. We have a couple of volunteers and do need several more for the event.

Saturday, June 28th - Greenwood Freedom Festival. This event may combine to include Field Day activities - stay tuned for more information. Volunteers are needed to answer questions and display amateur radio capabilities and possibly give tours of the Johnson County EmComm van.

**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.*

2008 Schedule of Events

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. Newslines are 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, and we will record your check-in!



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JUNE 2008

- 1 Hurricane Season Begins**
Check out the Atlantic Satellite and Caribbean views at www.intellicast.com
- 14 Tour-de-Cure, Indianapolis, IN**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at www.Indyhams.org for more information or to volunteer
- 14 16th Annual White River Township Fire Department Strawberry Festival**
Pleasant Grove Elementary School, 5199 West Fairview Road, Greenwood, IN (just east of State Road 37 on Fairview)
- 15 Father's Day**
- 21 MARC Meeting - 8 AM**
VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 21 ARRL Kid's Day**
Go to www.arrl.org for details
- 21 Summer Begins**
- 28 Old Towne Greenwood Street Fair and Freedom Festival, Greenwood, IN**
Next to Johnson County Emcomm Van, Old City Park
- 28-29 ARRL Field Day**
Multiple locations scheduled around Indiana; listen to area nets for more details

JULY 2008

- 4 Independence Day**
- 12 38th Annual Communications & Technology Expo (Indianapolis Hamfest)**
Opens at 6:00 AM; US52 & German Church Rd, Indianapolis, IN
- 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

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

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.