

Spark Gap

Volume 22, Issue 5, May 2005

From the Trustee....

Matthew Payne, KB9UJE, Trustee, MARC



Our first Skywarn Net of the year was activated on 23 April 2005 from 16:09 to 19:09. The activation, requested by the National Weather Service, was due to severe weather conditions. Our Net Control operator was Luke Lanham, KB9WIH. Our Liaison was Matt Payne, KB9UJE.

Eleven additional amateurs participated in the net. All were mobile with two amateurs going to base prior to the end of the net activation.

Those participating included, WB9AYB, WD9DVA, N9TA, KC9EKR, W8ISH, KB9BVN, KC9EDL, W9HY, N9GJA, KB9SKI, and W9JJS. WD9DVA and KC9EDL were the two mobiles stations switching to base.

We mad several independent reports to the National Weather Service via the 146.97/442.65 radio system, regarding reports of "pea size to dime sized hail in the western part of the county, north of Bargersville and west of Greenwood. Additionally, several spotters were tracking a wall cloud with low hanging clouds as it crossed the county from the southwest to the northeast. One spotter also noted high velocity wind in the area of Whiteland, Indiana. This was noted but not passed on to the National Weather Service due to it not meeting the minimum requirements for reporting as set by the National Weather Service for Skywarn.

This was our first net of the season and won't be our last. Suggestions for improved net operations will be forwarded to the net participants as needed. —73, KB9UJE

Note: Matt is also the Deputy Director of the Johnson County Emergency Management.

Information for Severe Weather Spotters

The National Weather Service (NWS) website (www.crh.noaa.gov/ind) contains additional information for severe weather spotters including how to report (who you are, what

you observed, where the event occurred, when the event occurred and the damage you witnessed) and what to report (tornadoes, funnel clouds, rotating wall clouds, hail 1/2 inch or larger, winds 50 mph or greater and if estimated or measured, flooding, and any other weather phenomena causing death or serious injury).

NWS relies on amateur radio trained weather spotters for reports during times of severe weather conditions. Training is free and offered each year in the spring. When reporting NWS also wants the call sign of the amateur making a report.

For a map of the Central Indiana Skywarn and a list of frequencies used for reporting, check out website www.skywarn.ampr.org/indple.htm.

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



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 835
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

IS 700 - National Incident Management System (NIMS0, An Introduction...Bob LaGrange, N9SIU)

On February 28, 2003, President Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5. HSPD-5 directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National

Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents. You can also find information about NIMS at <http://www.fema.gov/nims/>.



Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU,
Sparkgap
Editor

This course introduces NIMS and takes approximately three hours to complete. It explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. The course also contains "Planning Activity" screens giving you an opportunity to complete some planning tasks during this course. The planning activity screens are printable so that you can use them after you complete the course.

What will I be able to do when I finish this course? You will be able to:

- Describe the key concepts and principles underlying NIMS.
- Identify the benefits of using Incident Command System (ICS) as the national incident management model.
- Describe when it is appropriate to institute an Area Command.
- Describe when it is appropriate to institute a Multiagency Coordination System.
- Describe the benefits of using a Joint Information System (JIS) for public information.

- Identify the ways in which NIMS affects preparedness.
- Describe how NIMS affects how resources are managed.
- Describe the advantages of common communication and information management systems.
- Explain how NIMS influences technology and technology systems.
- Describe the purpose of the NIMS Integration Center.

NIMS knowledge will soon be required by anyone having anything to do with an Emergency Management Agency (EMA). NIMS classroom training is limited at this time but is available on line at www.fema.gov/nims/.

If anyone is interested in taking the training, the complete IS-700 is available in print. Just contact Bob, N9SIU. Once you have completed the training and are ready to take the final test, you will have to do so online. To have your test count you must first register with FEMA.

Are you ready for NIMS?

NIMS Alert

One of the most common concerns of federal, state, tribal and local governments has to do with the process and timeframe for adopting NIMS. NIMS compliance requirements will be phased in over time. FY 2005 will be a NIMS ramp-up year. Full NIMS compliance will not be required until the end of FY 2006.

Officers

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KB9SKI

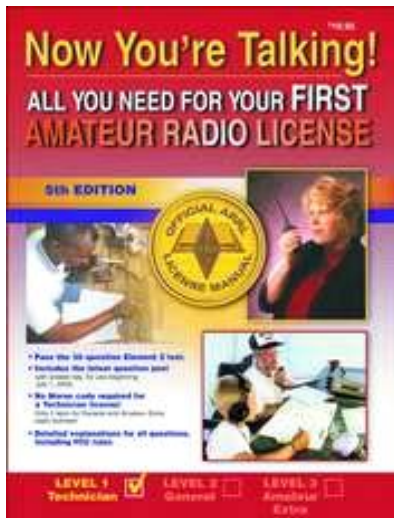
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Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU



Now You're Talking Technician Classes Update

Technician classes have concluded for this year. If you missed our series of classes and don't want to wait another year for the next round to begin, don't despair. Just contact one of our officers (see us at www.midstatehams.org) and let us know that you are interested in classes. We will work to see that you are directed to other classes being offered in the area.

Indianapolis 500 Mini-Marathon

Several MARC members volunteered their time on Saturday, May 7, to work the Indianapolis 500 Mini-Marathon. A good job was done by all!

According to Mike Palmer, N9FEB, 89 amateurs volunteered their time to provide emergency communications for this ARES event. 30,000 runners participated in the mini and 4,000 in the 5K. There were 11 ambulance runs (8 to Methodist and 3 to Wishard) with two cardiac arrests.

Check out our website at www.midstatehams.org for some great shots of the mini and our MARC members in action! Photos were taken by our own Hershel Saylor, WD9GMM.

VEC News

March 2005

Charles Hallan, Call sign unknown, General (New)
Rick Abshier, KQ4Y, Upgrade to Extra

April 2005

Richard Graham, KC9HMN, Technician
John Racz, KA9000, Upgrade to Extra
Raymond Sims, KC9HKE, Technician
Dennis Prunty, KB9HJW, Technician Plus
Gary Armstrong, KC9AGN, Upgrade to Extra
Michael McCoy, KC9ELU, Upgrade to General
Samual Buhlig, KB9PVB, Upgrade to General
Ray Bates, Call sign unknown, Upgrade to General

Congratulations!

Amateur Radio Testing

Interested in getting your amateur radio license or an upgrade to your current license? As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. Testing is also offered each year in April at the Columbus Hamfest in Columbus, Indiana.

This is a perfect opportunity for you or someone you know to get that amateur license, or upgrade to a higher-class license. Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any test necessary. Study hard, and then come to the meeting. Our VEC team is eager to serve.

Meetings begin at 8 a.m. with testing following the meeting. We would love to have you join us for the meeting. Testing will begin by 10 a.m. For directions to the meeting, please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org.

See You There!

Reminder:

Just a reminder that Field Day is coming up on June 25th and 26th. The Red Cross Disaster Radio Group in Indianapolis, Marion County, is hosting an area event and MARC has been invited to join in. For info contact President Art Bleicher, WB9CHR. This is another public safety opportunity to show how Amateur Radio benefits the community by providing emergency communications.

***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!***

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!



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 835
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org
317.887.2558

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2005 Schedule of Events

Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

May

- 7 Technician Class**
Greenwood Public Library, Greenwood, IN
- 7 Indianapolis 500 Mini-Marathon**
Indianapolis, IN
- 14 Technician Class**
Greenwood Public Library, Greenwood, IN
- 20-22 Dayton Hamvention**
Dayton, OH
- 21 MARC Meeting**
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 28 Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade**
Indianapolis, IN

JUNE

- 4 Tour-de-Cure Bicycle Event**
Indianapolis, IN
- 12 Wabash County 37th Annual Hamfest**
Wabash County 4-H Fairgrounds (St. Rd. 13N), Wabash, IN
- 18 MARC Meeting**
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 24-25 Olde Towne Greenwood Street Fair**
Downtown Greenwood and Craig Park, Greenwood, IN
- 25 Sprint Triathlon, Eagle Creek**
Indianapolis, IN
- 25-26 Field Day**
Amateur Radio Event - Various locations

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.