

Spark Gap

Volume 25, Issue 5, May 2008 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*

Severe Weather Day



Jack Parker, W8ISH,
President, MARC

*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

Spring in Indiana usually brings severe weather. You can bank on it. Old National Bank at SR 135 and Smith Valley Road cashed in on that theme and sponsored a community Severe Weather Awardness Day April 19th. Representatives from the National Weather

Service, Red Cross, Johnson County Emergency Management Agency and White River Township Fire Department set up displays to inform the public on how to respond to weather emergencies.

Several MARC members attended the four hour event and shared amateur radio information with the public. Linda-KC9GCH and Brenda-KC9EBL set up shop in the conference room of the County Emergency Communications Van. Visitors toured the Communications Van, saw the Amateur Radio work station and were supplied with Amateur Radio and emergency planning information. Outside Chris-KG6ZIJ demonstrated his VHF/HF rig while Steve-K9DY, Greg-KC9PKP and Jack W8ISH answered questions about Amateur Radio. Several area hams dropped by to check out the displays.

Several visitors expressed interest in getting their Amateur Radio license. Plans are being formulated for a late summer or fall Technician License Class. One of those interested was the Meteorologist-in-Charge, Weather Forecast Office, Indianapolis, Daniel W. McCarthy. He was a special guest for the day and stopped by to meet and

chat with the members of the club.

Linda was able to have access to one of the computers in the Emcomm van and brought up the results from the 5.2 earthquake that had occurred the day before on the Wabash Valley Fault. Guests were interested in the role amateur radio would play if a larger quake happened.

-Jack, w8ish



Editor's note:

Are you ready for severe weather? Last weekend saw another round of deadly tornados to the Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas areas. Make sure to check in on the Sunday night net, check your radios, charge your batteries and pay special attention to the National Weather website. Indiana has been lucky so far....but you never know when the good luck will run out. So please stay ready!

Leaving on a Jet Plane to Dayton Hamvention®



ARRL: May 9, 2008. “As the song says, ‘All our bags are packed and we’re ready to go’ — well, almost,” said ARRL Hamvention Coordinator Katie Breen, W1KRB. “The ARRL EXPO area is packed up into seven shipping skids and they are in a

truck on their way to Dayton. We here at headquarters are not only breathing a huge sigh of relief, but many of us are still wrapping up our individual final details.” The Dayton Hamvention® will run from May 16-18 at Hara Arena, just outside Dayton, Ohio.

Breen said that all around the Newington offices, ARRL staffers are putting the last-minute touches on their Dayton preparations: “Frankie Perez, KB1NQR, is finishing up his schedule for checking cards at the DXCC area. By late Saturday afternoon at Hamvention, there will be an area set up by the card checking just for DX Talk. We’ve named it the DXCC Discussion Zone.”

Also new this year is the “Doctor Is IN” booth. This area, Breen said, is all about and just for technology enthusiasts: “QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, has been putting his creative genius to work and coming up with some great plans for that booth! ARRL Circulation Manager Amy Hurtado, KB1NXO, is finalizing details on what will be available in the bookstore and membership area. And me? Well, since this is my first year of coordinating the EXPO, I think I’m just worrying about everyone else at this point!”

Breen said that one thing she is really excited about with this year’s EXPO is that the ARRL will host a larger number of volunteers from around the country: “Some of our newer Section Managers, some as far away as Northern California and Florida will

be there. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, will be attending forums, meeting and greeting members and generally sharing the good stories of all that is happening here at the League. We’re also going to have an international presence with the IARU; we are pleased to welcome IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, and IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH.”

“Amateur Radio is all about the people,” Breen remarked. “Without people on the air in various modes, what would Amateur Radio be? Without hams invested in Public Service, what would Amateur Radio be? Without people in their communities volunteering their time, what would Amateur Radio be? I think the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) hit the nail on the head with this year’s theme of ‘People + Radio = Fellowship.’ When it all comes down to it, we are communicating with each other, regardless of the mode being used. What better opportunity to come together and communicate than at Hamvention, the country’s largest gathering of radio enthusiasts?”



Does this look like your “go bag” equipment? If not, take a photo of what you have in your “go bag” and send it to Linda, pio@midstatehams.org.

Be sure to include your name, call sign, and a brief description of what is included in the photo. Look for photos in a future issue.

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Harshbarger,
KC9GCH**

Hamfest Info

Hamfest season is certainly in full swing.

The **57th annual Dayton Hamvention** will take place on Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18, 2008 at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. The hamvention includes 500 exhibit spaces inside the arena and 2,300 flea market spaces outside the arena. More than \$50,000 in prizes will be given out during the event. Tickets include admission to the ARRL EXPO located in the Hara Ballarena, near the 400 numbered booths. For more information see their website at www.hamvention.org.

The local Indianapolis Radio Club has once again rented a bus for a one day trip to the Dayton Hamvention on Saturday, May 17th, 2008. Seats are filling up fast due to the high cost of fuel. Seats are \$30 this year and include two stops to pick up and drop-off passengers and will include a breakfast stop on the way over and a supper stop on the way back. For more information, please go to their website at www.indyradioclub.org for information.

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 **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 PL)

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. Newline 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, and we will record your check-in!



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MAY 2008

16-19 57th Annual Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, Dayton, OH

Tickets and more information available via their website www.hamvention.org
Indianapolis Radio Club has again rented a bus for a day trip on May 17th. See their website at www.indyradioclub.org for information.

17 MARC Meeting - 8 AM

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

24 500 Festival Parade, Indianapolis, IN

Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at www.Indyhams.org for more information or to volunteer

26 Memorial Day

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

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.