

# Spark Gap

Volume 26, Issue 11, November 2009 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years*

## 80-Meter Project Update



Johnson County ARES/RACES is radio ready. Saturday October 31, 2009 a team of volunteers erected the final antenna in a ten-month project to make our EOC radio room disaster ready.

Johnson County is one of the few counties in the state with those capabilities. We can also run digital modes as well using SignalLink interface units.

Our thanks to the ever expanding Tech Committee for getting things done.

Under the guidance of Steve

Carmean -K9DY, three aluminum frames and masts were hoisted onto the roof of the Johnson County Law Enforcement Building. The 80-Meter wire antenna stretches across the entire width of the building. Steve and Ed Condor -N9IZN, used donated parts from an outdoor trampoline frame to fashion the three base units. Eight thirty-pound concrete blocks help hold the frames in place.

Our ground crew consisted of Dave-KB9LOT, Brian-KB9BVN, Brenda-KC9EBL and Richard Burton-KC9QGD. Steve-K9DY, Jack-W8ISH and Steve Brown-N9LC handled the roof top task of assembling all the parts into a working 80-meter dipole antenna.

An exhaustive search under the elevated floor in the Sheriff's dispatch room revealed two long lost club coax. One of those completed the connection to the new antenna on the roof. That coax was put in place 15 years ago by Jack and Bill Brinkmann - AA9UV for a purposed six-meter radio and antenna.

This antenna completes our plans for a first class ham radio station in the EOC. We now have capabilities on two meters, 70 cm, 220 Mhz and HF from 80 thru 10 meters.

Photo 1

Photo 2

Story and photos by Jack Parker, W8ISH

*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](http://www.midstatehams.org)

# Recent Events From the ARRL

## STS 129: Stocking the International Space Station

**ARRL: REVISED Nov 13, 2009  
10:12 ET**

Besides taking spare parts to the International Space Station (ISS) this coming Monday, the space shuttle (Columbia) will deliver the module antennas for — the laboratory built by the European Space Agency (ESA) and host of two Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) antennas.

“Lou McFadin, W5DID, a member of the Board of Directors and a key volunteer for ARISS, showed the astronauts the best ways for them to safely unpack and assemble the antennas and associated cables once they and the hardware reach the ISS,” said ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. “They reviewed how to maneuver and install the antennas during the spacewalk. Lou also oversaw the re-packing of the antennas and the onboard flight kit that accompanies shipments going to the ISS.”

Astronauts will install and deploy our ARISS antennas during the second spacewalk of STS-129. The ham team will monitor the spacewalk activity via a NASA real-time teleconference call. “The new antennas will increase opportunities for the many hams who covet making contacts with astronauts and cosmonauts,” White explained. “Frequencies available for transmission to and from *Columbus* will be 2 meters, 70 centimeters, L-band and S-band. To start, the two Ericsson radios (2 meters and 70 centimeters) that are already on the ISS (but seldom used) will be moved and installed in *Columbus*.”

The upcoming mission — set to launch at 2: 28 PM (EST) on Monday, November 16 — will be the last shuttle mission to bring personnel to the ISS. There will only be ; the last shuttle flight on the launch manifest is , on board , with a launch target of September 16, 2010. STS-133 will be the 134th and shuttle flight and the 36th shuttle mission to the ISS. “You’ll see this theme in some of the

flights that are going to come after ours as well,” said Brian Smith, the lead space station flight director for the mission. “This flight is all about spares — basically, we’re getting them up there while we still can.”

NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, told the ARRL that the new VHF/UHF Amateur Radio antenna is currently stowed in the bay of the space shuttle *Atlantis* and will be installed during the second extravehicular activity (EVA) of the shuttle mission; EVA is NASA’s term for a spacewalk. “The antenna — along with another VHF antenna — was developed by ARISS in cooperation with the ESA to support an experiment involving the maritime Automatic Identification System (AIS),” Ransom explained. “Both antennas will be installed on the Earth-facing starboard edge of the Columbus module. The AIS antenna will be forward and the ARISS antenna will be aft. The ARISS team is planning to migrate some stowed Amateur Radio gear to take advantage of the new antenna.”

STS-129 will carry Commander Charlie Hobaugh, Pilot Barry Wilmore, Mission Specialists Bobby Satcher, Mike Foreman, Randy Bresnik and Leland Melvin; Wilmore, Satcher and Bresnik will be making their first trips to space. *Atlantis* will bring back Mission Specialist/ISS Flight Engineer Nicole Stott, KE5GJN, who has been on board the ISS since August 2009.

Liftoff of *Atlantis*’ flight to the International Space Station is set for 2:28 PM EST on November 16. The countdown to launch begins 1 PM EST on Friday, November 13. — *Thanks to NASA for some information*

## Officers

**President:**  
Steve Carmean,  
K9DY

**Vice President:**  
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AA9YP

**Spark Gap Editors:**  
Bob LaGrange,  
N9SIU

Linda  
Harshbarger,  
KC9GCH

## Class Update

The Technician level amateur radio class was cancelled as not enough potential hams signed up for the class. If you know of anyone wishing to take a class, please have them contact me at 317-887-2558 or at [PIO@midstatehams.org](mailto:PIO@midstatehams.org). We will be attempting another class beginning in February or March 2010.

Class size is limited to 14 students so registration will close when all 14 spaces are filled. The class will not be held if there is a lack of students. Please check around and let anyone know who is interested. Let's do what we can to get the spring 2010 class filled.

## November Meeting

David L. Johnson, P.E., will be our guest speaker at the November meeting. He is in charge of Manufacturing Procurement for Global Energy and Utilities. Mr. Johnson will give a talk entitled "**Does Lightning Strike Twice?**" It did that?

Story time:

Sand Ridge

Water & Wells

Low Voltage Lightning

WTHI

and Protecting Your Shack - do's and dodo's.

Also if you haven't gotten your picture taken for the ID badge please stay after the meeting to get that done. Applications for club membership and ARES/RACES applications will be available. As a reminder, if you are a member and also a member of the ARRL you can renew your ARRL membership via our club. When you do so, the club receives \$2.00 of the membership fee in order to help support the club.

## Hamfest/Event Info

The **37th Annual Ft. Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo**, sponsored by the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (ACARTS) will be held on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15, 2009 at the Allen County War Memorial coliseum Exposition Center. For directions go to [www.fortwaynehamfest.com](http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com). Times are 9 AM to 4 PM EST on Saturday and 9 AM to 3 PM EST on Sunday. Admission is \$6.00 on Saturday (good for both days) and \$4.00 on Sunday. Coliseum parking is \$4.00 per vehicle. Lat. N41 06.878/Lon. W 85 07.388.

The **17th Annual Evansville Hamfest**, sponsored by EARS and The Ham Station, will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2009 at the Vanderburgh County 4-H Center Auditorium, Evansville, Indiana. Times are from 8 AM to 1 PM Central Time. Talk-in is on the EARS Wide Area Repeater Network 145.150- Evansville, 146.925- & 443.925+ Vincennes (all use 107.2 tone). For more information go to [w9ear.org](http://w9ear.org).

## 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](http://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.

# 2009/2010 Schedule of Events

## NOVEMBER 2009

### 14-15 Indiana State Convention (Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo)

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN

Talk-in 146.88 (-); for more information e-mail to [chairman@fortwaynehamfest.com](mailto:chairman@fortwaynehamfest.com)

### 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 Evansville Hamfest

Vanderburgh County 4-H Fairgrounds Auditorium, Evansville, IN

Talk-in 145.150 (-) Evansville; 146.925 (-) and 443.925 (+) Vincennes (All use 107.2 PL)

For more information contact Neil Rapp, 2744 Pinehurst Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403

## DECEMBER 2009

### 19 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)

## JANUARY 2010

### 16 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)

## FEBRUARY 2010

### 20 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 2010

### 20 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)

## APRIL 2010

### 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)

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317.887.2558

*Spark Gap*

## 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](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.**

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November 2009 Newsletter – Photo Pages

Photo 1



Photo 2

