

SPARK GAP

Vol. 33, Issue 8, August 2016 MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-three years

On Our MARC:

Well, our radio room has been moved to its new location. With Dave Daily turning the job over to Jack Parker to organize the move, Jack got a group of people together to get the job done. The move took place at the end of July. All the furniture and equipment was moved over on July 30th. I believe there were two trailer loads to move. Once moved, a few people put things in order. The furniture was placed in the rooms. There is still more to organize.

It is my understanding that a few people will get together to take the wires out and the antenna off the roof of the EOC. I believe we are now completely out of the old radio room. Thanks to all of you that helped!!

It's not too late to throw your hat into the ring for an officer's position in the MARC for the 2016-17 year. If you hold a valid Amateur Radio license and your dues are current, full member of the club, you can run for President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. If you wish to run or would like to nominate someone else for a position, please contact Rhonda Curtis at secretary@midstatehams.org or Bob LaGrange at N9SIU@yahoo.com. Before nominating someone, please check with them to see if they are interested in an office. The slate will be finalized at the meeting on Aug. 20th with balloting up until the annual picnic on Sept. 17th.

Speaking of the picnic, it is a great family event. Again this year we will be headed to Steve Brown's, N9LC, home in Franklin. Steve and his wife have graciously welcomed us for another year and the location couldn't be any better. Hopefully the weather will be just as nice. Your admission is a covered dish or another item to share and a lawn chair to "sit a spell." The club will provide the meat, the drinks and the paper goods. See all of you there!

Hope to see you on Saturday. The coffee will be on.

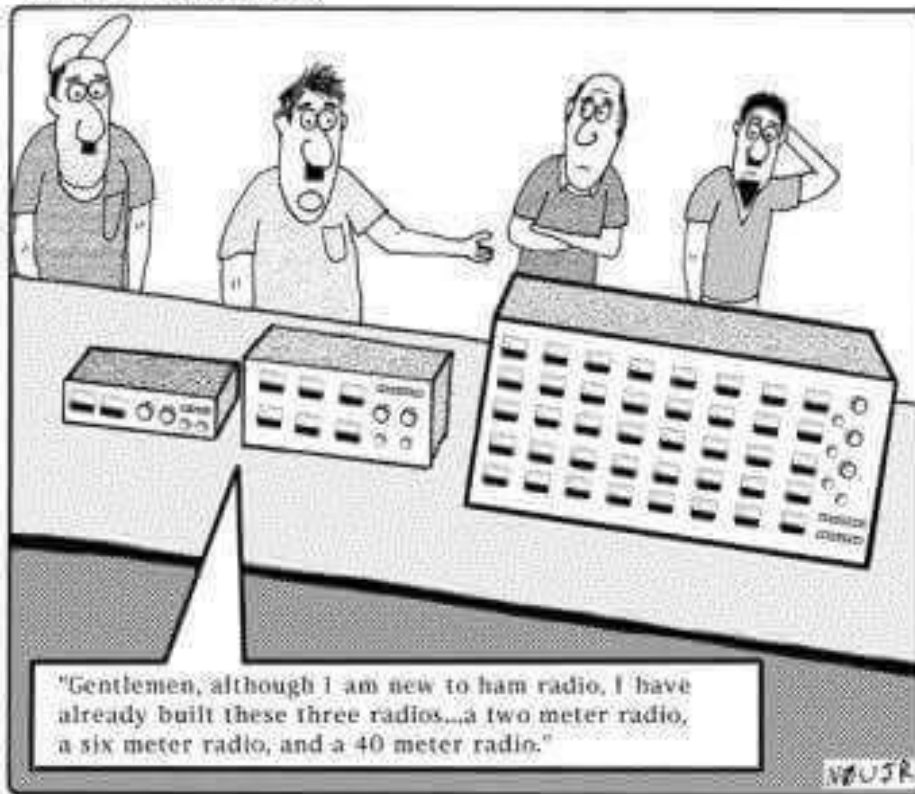
Jacki – KI6QOG
President

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



*Birthdays for the month of August:
N9JGB-Grant Black
N9CHY-Cy Young*

Copyright © 1999 by Greg Trook



MARC-RACES radio equipment has a new home

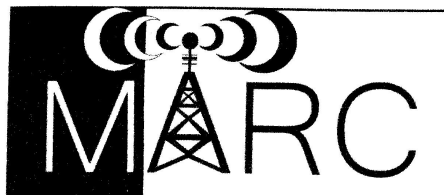
After more than twenty years of service to Johnson County Emergency Management the MARC-RACES radio equipment has a new home. Our RACES radio equipment finds itself in a backroom of the Johnson County Prosecutors' office at 1 Caisson Drive, south of the court house. The 15 x 15 foot room is not as wide as our previous room but still holds the same amount of emergency operating radio equipment.

I was pleased when RACES Coordinator Dave Daily-KB9LOT asked me to organize the move before the end of July. We beat that deadline by one day when our crew of 13 gathered Saturday July 30th to make it happen. We had the room's entire contents dismantled, moved and re-assembled in four hours. I'm writing this in the first person since my club history goes back to when, as the 3rd club President, I attended a meeting with then Johnson County Civil Defense Director Sam Williams. Sam rolled out the blue prints for a new county admin building and Emergency Operations Center. He didn't know anything about ham radio, but did know he wanted Amateur Radio communications involved with future disasters.

During his visit, Sam's hand swept over the basement blue print drawing indicating where the new Sheriff dispatch would be, then the kitchen, training room and rest rooms. Pointing to a block next to dispatch, Sam looked at our executive board and asked if that would be big enough for our radios and people. Since our club was meeting in a smoke filled back room of the old House of Franklin, we all agreed that tiny 15 x 17 space would have to do. After 9/11 the sheriff secured that hallway and moved us to the backroom we just vacated.

The RACES radio room has been a twenty-seven year building process of club purchased radios, then county purchased radios and now FEMA granted radios. That equipment made our operation one of the best in Indiana. It has taken a lot of hours and work pulling coax, hanging antennas and roaming the jail house roof to get our broadcast antennas and capabilities up to first class standards. Now after almost three decades of operating from the jailhouse basement, MARC embarks on a new challenge to equip our new home with the same radios and antennas as we continue to plan and serve the Johnson county Emergency Management agency when needed.

Our work is not done. All of the antennas still need to be removed from the jail site and relocated onto the 90 foot tower behind the Prosecutors' office. The good news is we have better access to that building which means club members will soon be free to swing by and use the HF equipment if needed. A big thanks to our moving crew: John Dickerson, Kevin Nuetzman, Ron Schuetz, Steve Carmean, Ken Barr, Marlys Barr, Jacki Frederick, Bob La Grange, Chris Frederick, Steve Ellis, Rusty Kirts, Mike Turner and of course your humble "Straw Boss", W8ISH



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Desk Removed



Files Waiting



Moving by Committee



Truck Leaves



Carpet Laying



Ron Stacking Shelves



New Room



Room Set Up



Many Thanks to our Moving Crew

..... pictures by Jack Parker W8ISH

Good-Bye, Hara Arena! Dayton Hamvention Headed for Xenia in 2017

"X" marks the spot! After 52 years at Hara Arena and its entire 64-year history in the Greater Dayton area, \hat{A} announced on August 1 that it would relocate to the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. The new venue is about 16 miles east of downtown Dayton off US Route 35 and north of Xenia. On June 29, the Amateur Radio community was stunned to learn that Hara Arena would shut down at the end of August, leaving Hamvention homeless -- at least until this week's big reveal.

"We appreciate and value all the time and effort the many partners, in particular the Greene County Agricultural Society, the Greene County Board of Commissioners, and the Greene County Convention & Visitors Bureau, have put into helping Hamvention find the right venue to continue our long history here in the Miami Valley," Hamvention General Chair Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, said on August 1. "We look forward to a long and mutually prosperous relationship."



Hamvention spokesperson Mike Kalter, W8CI, speaks at the August 1 announcement.

[Courtesy of Jeff Davis, KE9V]

Cramer has said that Hamvention spent "many hours over the last few years evaluating possible [new] locations," and he has assured visitors that their "current accommodations and outside events already planned for Hamvention 2017 should not be affected."

Hamvention chief spokesman and board member Mike Kalter, W8CI, made clear that the move to Xenia was not done in desperation. "Montgomery County didn't have anything for us," he told ARRL. "We looked exhaustively."

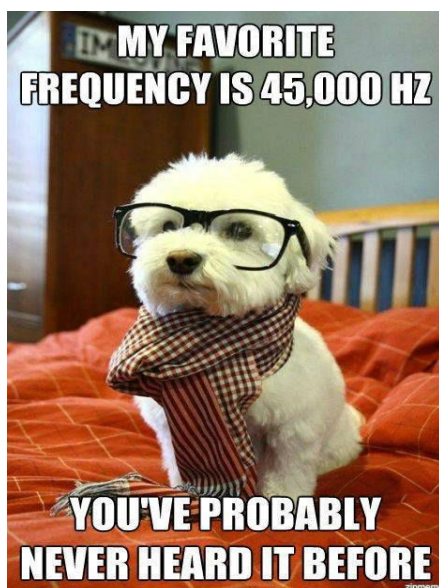
"The key thing is that we plan to have a 5-star event," he said of Hamvention 2017. "We'll put a lot of time and energy into it."



The move to Xenia could prove to be a huge economic bonanza for the city and for Greene County. Hamvention attracts some 25,000 visitors each May. Its annual economic impact has been estimated at between \$15 and \$17 million to the Dayton/Montgomery County area, and some -- if not most -- of that benefit now could migrate eastward down US 35.

Kalter conceded that the new venue in Greene County is a slightly longer drive from downtown Dayton -- where some Hamvention-related events traditionally occur -- than it was to Hara Arena, but he believes it will be worth the trip. James M. Cox International Airport in Dayton remains the closest for anyone flying in for the event, although the drive from the airport will be about twice as long for those deciding to stay in Xenia.

"We expect next year to be a *big* year," Kalter said. "We expect a lot of people to come to see what it's like." Read more. Also see this story. On his website, KE9V has offered some regarding the new venue. ARRL News August 2016



MARC to elect club officers for 2016-17

As fall approaches it is time to elect club officers for the coming year. All offices of the club are open for nominations. The offices are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Repeater Trustee.

Constitution of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club, Article VI Duties of Officers:

1. The duties of the President shall be to conduct all meetings according to adopted rules, to enforce observances of such rules, to decide questions of order (seeking parliamentary assistance if desired), to sign all official documents, handle emergency matters with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, and to perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office.
2. The duties of the Vice President shall be to assume presidential duties if the need arises, and to be of general assistance to the President. Additionally, the Vice President shall be in charge and responsible for the recruitment of new club members, and retention of current membership.
3. Duties of the Secretary shall be to keep records of the proceedings of all meetings, to report to the membership the minutes of the meetings, to carry on all correspondence and report appropriately to the membership. Correspondence is understood to include matters relating to meetings.
4. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive and expend monies, receive applications and fees for membership, keep proper records of all financial matters, keep an accurate record of members and their dues status, make financial reports at club meetings and as otherwise requested. In general the Treasurer shall pay only those monies authorized by the membership at club meetings. However, there shall be established a petty cash fund for the payment, without authorization, of routine and incidental expenses. The amount of the petty cash fund shall be established in the by-laws. The President shall arrange for the Treasurer's books to be reviewed annually.
5. The duties of the Repeater Trustee shall be to authorize and supervise the use of any club call sign, be accountable for club equipment, provide continuity and guidance relating to changes in officers, maintain such records as are necessary, and be the chief contact person between the club and any regulatory governmental agencies. The Repeater Trustee shall be responsible for the proper legal use of privileges granted by this license in accordance with FCC Rules (47 CFR part 97), shall hold a valid amateur radio license of General Class or higher, have final say only in all aforementioned legal matters, and shall submit a report at each monthly meeting.
6. At the end of any officer's term, all club materials in the officer's possession shall be given to the officer's successor.

Any club member in good standing can run for any of the offices listed in the MARC Constitution.

Please contact the nomination committee Rhonda – WS9H ws9h@comcast.net or

Bob - N9SIU n9siu@yahoo.com if you want to run for an office or wish to nominate someone. At the August club meeting nominations will be announced and voting for club officers up to the September meeting.

Up on the roof top, Click, Click, Click.

Up on the roof top, Click, Click, Click. No it's not Santa but three MARC elves cutting down our HF wire antennas, dismantling their base units and pulling the vertical VHF and HF antennas off the roof of the Johnson County jail.

Ron-K9THR, Steve-K9DY and Bruce-K9ICP scaled the jail last week to remove all of our RACES antennas from their long time home on the roof. Our second story team completed the job before summer heat temps soared into the '90s.

Meanwhile, in the air conditioned comfort of the Administration building basement, Chris-KQ9Y and Jack-W8ISH were busy disconnecting the last remnants of coax and grounding wire out of our EOC radio room. We were granted special permission to access the sheriff's property room to remove our coax and grounding equipment from the back utility room. This wire room was located behind the former sheriff's dispatch center. While working on cutting the lines leading out to the tower, Jack discovered a water leak in their fiber line. Hopefully this wet discovery helped save further damage to the county's existing fiber radio system.

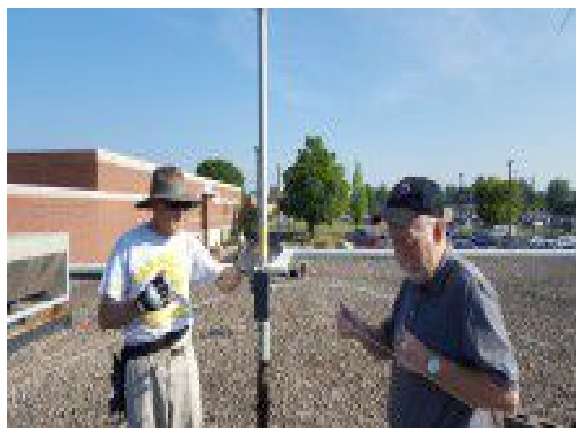
All salvaged coax will be used to finish connecting antennas to radios in the new site at the old Franklin PD. Mike Rose-KC9WLR will soon scale the short radio tower behind the jail to remove those antennas as time and weather permit.



Jack and Chris, EOC antennas



Bruce, Steve and Ron roof antennas



Ron and Bruce remove the R7 antenna



Ron rolls up 40-80 meter cable

..... article and pictures by Jack W8ISH

5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet:

Charlie – M0PZT @M0PZT

Blog updated: RST and Speed Matters <http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/> #hamradio

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that. What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information needs to be brief, but repeated – Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!"

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, "Readable with practically no difficulty." When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219.

Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

R5: Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm ragchewing with the other operator.

R4: Readable with practically no difficulty. "Practically no difficulty" is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and ragchewing is definitely possible.

R3: Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a ragchew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

R2: Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.

R1: Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable.

Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the signal sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater.

What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give?

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. If you want an honest Readability report, look for him most evenings on 40m CW.

NEW WEBSITE FOR U.S. DMR USERS

There is a new website that will be helpful for those of us that travel to different states and use DMR. The site is called US DMR INFO, www.us-dmr.info/home.html. The site contains code plugs for 50 states for the brands of DMR radios such as Connect Systems, Motorola, Tytera and Vertex Standard.

“This site is the home for United States DMR Ham Radio codeplugs. There are many people out there that are searching for Codeplugs for different radios, but have been unsuccessful in finding them. This site will help you in that way, by providing links to the files. My goal is to provide at least one codeplug per State, and then more as things grow”. States Joseph Rowe WJ0WE the web master and creator of this site. This site will be a continuing work in progress and will also be a valuable resource for all that use DMR through out the United States.

Please check out this website especially if you are traveling outside Indiana. With your DMR radio and your laptop computer you should be able to stay in contact just about everywhere you may travel.

..... *Bob N9SIU*



UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

08/20/2016 0800 – MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Johnson County EOC, Johnson County Law Enforcement Center.

09/10/2016 – Johnson County Heartnut Festival, MARC demo to public of HAM Radio

09/17/2016 – Bloomington ARC Hamfest

Location: Monroe County Fairgrounds, 5700 West Airport Road, Bloomington, IN 47401

Sponsor: Bloomington Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.bloomingtonradio.org>

09/17/2016 1130 – MARC Monthly meeting and annual picnic at the Steve Brown, K9LC Ranch, Election of Club Officers for 2016-2017.

09/24/2016 1130 – MARC Public Service to provide parking and public safety assistance for the Greenwood HS Marching Band Invitational. This is an all day and evening event and need many amateurs to assist. More information at the club meeting and sign up for the event available.

POC Bob N9SIU n9siu@yahoo.com

10/15/2016 0800 – MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Johnson County EOC, Johnson County Law Enforcement Center.

10/31/2016 – Goblin Patrol TBA

11/19/2016 0800 – MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Johnson County EOC, Johnson County Law Enforcement Center.

11/12/2016 – Indiana State Convention

(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo)

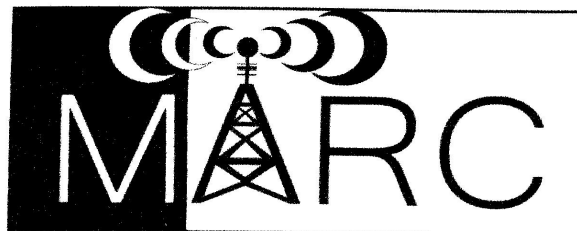
Location: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

12/17/2016 0800 – MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Johnson County EOC, Johnson County Law Enforcement Center.

01/21/2016 – MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Johnson County EOC, Johnson County Law Enforcement Center.



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 Law Enforcement Center, Conference Room 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeaters:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

Please see Cy Young N9CHY at the meeting Saturday if you would like to become a member of our club.

