

CCARC JANUARY 2003 NEWSLETTER

Club Dues

Your club dues for 2003 are payable now. If you have not already done so, please remit \$15 via with the enclosed form. Donations are always appreciated. You will see in the article Repeater News why this is particularly true this year.

Officers

The club officers for this year are:

President, Larry Neal, N9SFA

Vice President, Terry Lenehan, AB9FK

Sec/Treasurer, Craig Cooper, KB9JDW

Repeater Trustee, Jon Crispin, KB9JIK

Calendar:

Club Meetings – First Tuesday of each month, 7PM, Frankfort library.

VE Testing – quarterly, last Saturday of month, Frankfort library. Next one April 26.

Nets – Weekly, Monday night at 7PM, 146.61 and 442.575, or 147.045.

Dayton Ham fest – May 16-18

Website:

Clinton County Amateur Radio Club website:

[Http://www.geocities.com/ResearchTriangle/Forum/7446/](http://www.geocities.com/ResearchTriangle/Forum/7446/)

Membership:

CCARC Roster

	Call sign	Name	Phone	Address	City	
1	KB9JDW	Craig Cooper	659-5373	550 E Walnut	Frankfort	
2	N9SEZ	John Davey	654-4188	352 N Crescent	Frankfort	
3	N9MTA	Jim Scott	765-296-2519	Box 374	Mulberry	
4	WD9DPZ	Jim Sullivan	436- 7104u	8727 N 550 W	Thornton	
5	KB9JIK	Jon Crispin	765-379-3477	5481 W 750 N	Rossville	46065
6	K9FUE	Bill Stong	765-379-2253	151 E Main	Rossville	
7	W9AH	Sam Paul	659-1720	708Delphi	Frankfort	
8	K9DGS	Don Reeder	659-1278	6182 W SR 28	Frankfort	
9	W9PC	Mark Phillips	765-379-3335	6507 W 800 N	Rossville	
10	N9NBW	William Harshbarger	279-8401	9721 E 500 S	Kirklin	
11	N9NBV	Janis Harshbarger	279-8401	9721 E 500 S	Kirklin	
12	N9OAN	William Harshbarger Jr	279-8401	9721 E 500 S	Kirklin	
13	KB9WUG	Lynette Harshbarger	279-8401	9721 E 500 S	Kirklin	
14	N9JWY	Jerry Young Sr	659-2748	360 S Broadway	Frankfort	
15	WB9QQO	John Walker	279-8775	610 E Pine St.	Kirklin	
16	W9QYY	Giles Walker	279-8062	324 W Jefferson St.	Kirklin	
17	KA9RER	Liz DeRosa	659-2919	1157 N Genty	Frankfort	
18	N9RNZ	Ronald Koble	765-379-3631	7761 W SR 26	Rossville	
19	WD9FHZ	Michael Gosewehr	765-482-6754	830 Millerwood Dr	Lebanon	
20	WD9FIA	Debra Gosewehr	765-482-6754	830 Millerwood Dr	Lebanon	
21	N9SFA	LarryNeal	659-4048	2125 S 400 E	Frankfort	
22	KF9IZ	Dave Hughes	659-4998	951 1/2 S First	Frankfort	
23	N9MSV	Larry Laughner	654-7757	708 E 100 N	Frankfort	
24	W9ILO	John Guffy Jr	279-8321	9402 E 480 S	Kirklin	

25	W9URS	Don Massey	659-1811	Wesley Manor 1555 N Main	Frankfort	
26	K9MD	Steve Tharp	659-2547	4536 Wildwood Dr	Frankfort	
27	N9GBO	Don Lecklitner	654-6580	3477 E SR 28	Frankfort	
28	KB9YIM	Steve Sparks	249-5012	POB 601	MI. Tn.	46057
29	AB9FK	Terry Lenehan	654-6599	2832 S CR 100 E	Frankfort	
30	KB9ZNN	Dwane McMahel	296-4927	505 s. 1050 E.	Lafayette	47905
31	N9RNZ	Ronald Kobel				

Field Day Report:

Another successful and fun ARRL Field Day was held at Camp Cullom on June 22/23. We all had a great time, in spite of some hot weather conditions. Once again a big, big thank you to Arthur A Gill & Son for the use of the office trailers (see photo below). They make the effort of operating for 24 hrs. steady so much more pleasant. The biggest difference from previous years was a rules change that deleted the Novice station and added the GOTA (Get On The Air) station. The GOTA station allowed and encouraged both new hams and inactive existing hams to operate during the contest on HF, regardless of their class of license. There was less “pressure” to produce contacts at the GOTA stations, a factor much appreciated by the operators. Several of our members took advantage of the GOTA station to gain valuable on the air experience on HF, and they made a lot of QSOs. We will need more new participants this year to continue to take advantage of the GOTA station, so let us know if you would like to be included.

The CW station produced a lot of QSOs, but only because the load on the operator was reduced by the excellent help from many assistant operators, loggers, and the air-conditioned shack. Without these, the operator wouldn’t have made it to the finish line. Learn CW and come help operate. Break in at the GOTA station if you wish.

The SSB station total improved by 34% compared to last year, and was the best result we’ve had there in several years. Congratulations on the good effort and results.

The VHF/UHF results were about the same as the last few years. This station adds a lot of interest, fun, and participation to the event for all, and is therefore valuable far beyond the QSO total.

The results were published in the December QST. In Class 2A, CCARC was 4th in Indiana. We were also in the top 19% of the 518 class 2A stations.

SSB QSOs: 393

CW QSOs: 600

VHF/UHF QSOs : 29

GOTA QSOs: 245

Total QSOs: 1266

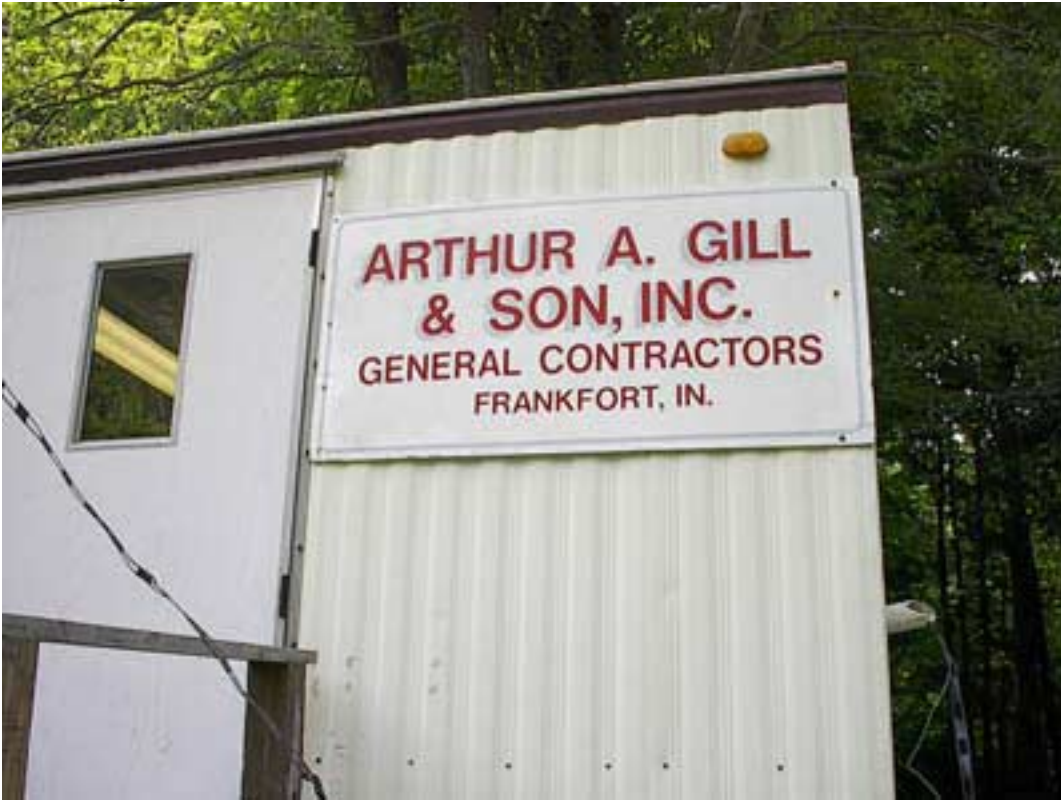
Bonus points (publicity, etc.) 1100

Total points, including multipliers for CW contacts and for our power level: 4832

Not showing up in the “score” is the tremendous fun and satisfaction had by everyone!

2003 Field Day will be at Camp Cullom, June 28/29.

Field Day Photos:



AB9FK's boys working the GOTA station. In fact, they had our only 2 mtr. Contact.



W9PC & WB9UXX working the CW station



The SSB station



Some of the FD crew: (From L to R K9DGS, KB9JDW, W9AH, N9SFA, KB9JIK, K9FUE, W9PC and seated AB9FK)



K9FUE & N9SFA APRS DEMO and SSTV below



Repeater News:

You may have noticed that we now have 3 repeaters operating in Clinton County! This greatly improves the chance that one will be operational at all times. Considerable work and effort has been expended to reach this point, primarily by Larry N9SFA, and Jon KB9JIK. Remember to give them a “thank you” and “well done”.

Here is a summary of the current status of each repeater:

146.61 and 442.575 are located at Cyclone, IN, with antenna height of about 80 feet. They are fully owned by the club, and are interconnected. A persistent noise problem was finally identified and solved, much to the relief of all. However, the coverage is not sufficient for the entire county, limited by antenna performance and height.

147.045 is located on the “Shine99” tower at Middlefork. This system is owned by Vern, W9FAM. We have a working agreement with him to share in system maintenance and operation. Recent repairs and adjustments have greatly improved the performance of this repeater, and additional work is planned so as to eventually achieve the full performance potential. The antenna height at this site is very good, about 360 feet. The Shine 99 gen set supplies emergency power. Remember this repeater, especially during power outages.

And now for the big news: Many of us have driven past the 780 feet high TV18 tower southwest of Rossville and thought “If we could just get our repeater on that tower...”. Well, we can! Yes, that’s right, we have obtained permission to put an antenna at 550 feet on TV18 tower! An installation there would provide the premier amateur repeater in North Central Indiana.

An installation on the TV 18 tower will cost a substantial amount of money. Feedline of the quality and length required, feedline mounting hardware, and professional installation

of feedline and antenna make up the bulk of the projected cost. Some good ideas have been advanced as to how to finance this project. Come to our meetings and make your input as to how to turn the dream of having the finest repeater in our region into reality.

Emergency Preparedness:

One of the main reasons that Amateur Radio exists is that we are supposed to be able to provide some service to our citizens. We have always given some thought about our capability to provide useful service in disasters or other emergencies, but to see if we truly can do so, we must examine some of the components of emergency preparedness and decide if we need to act to reduce weaknesses.

Group owned and operated equipment: The utility of repeaters is obvious. The discussion above shows that we are greatly improving our repeater capability locally. Permanently installed antennas at strategic sites are highly desirable, such as at shelters, fire stations, ambulance headquarters, etc. Rossville Hams recently installed a vhf/uhf antenna at 55 feet, above the Volunteer Ambulance Service garage/community center. A communications van or trailer, generator, and antenna with portable mast or tower might be useful, and provide good public awareness.

Individually owned equipment: We own lots of HTs and mobile vhf/uhf equipment. HF portable equipment is fairly plentiful. Antennas to replace those damaged in storms with at least limited capability should be assembled, tested, and stored.

Operator Skills: We all think we are great communicators, and it is likely that we can handle informal or “tactical” communications, but how about formal, written messages usually called Radiograms? They are very useful and will often be used during disaster communications, but do you know how? It’s not hard, and it is a traditional Ham skill that every one of us should know. No Ham should ever refuse to handle a Radiogram just because they “don’t know how”. To receive a Radiogram for delivery to an addressee, all you really have to do is write down what the sending station sends, translate any ARRL numbered pre-fab messages into plain English, and call or otherwise contact the addressee to read it to them or hand them the message. Listen on the Monday night net for examples, look on the ARRL web site for information, or contact W9PC for more information if you need to. Attendees at a recent club meeting received training on traffic handling and now know the basics. Let’s all practice by composing a greeting message to a friend or family member, and list it on our Monday night net. You can address it to someone out of state for even more fun, and relay it through W9PC or one of our other HF operators into the National Traffic System (NTS).

Nets:

In addition to our Monday night vhf/uhf net, if properly licensed you can participate in traffic nets on HF SSB and CW, which each have nets meeting at least twice each day. Check the ARRL web site for the Net Directory. There is a slow CW net on 3.705 daily at 6:15PM. Try at least listening to it to improve your copy ability. A faster CW net is on 3.656 at 7PM, and at 9:30AM, about 15 words per minute. SSB is on 3.910 at 8:30AM and at 4:30PM, but you won’t increase your code speed by listening to that, Hi Hi. Times may change an hour when those other silly states switch to DST.

Disaster or Emergency Plan:

What will we do in an emergency? Listen on our local 2 meter or uhf frequencies to find out what is needed. We have some local hams active in our local government and some of the service agencies, so it's likely they will keep us advised. Maybe we should have a better plan. This sounds like a project for this year!

Contacting the CCARC:

**CCARC c/o
Craig Cooper KB9JDW
550 East Walnut St.
Frankfort, IN 46041**

Secretary's note: Getting the 440 repeater moved to the TV 18 transmitter tower will be no small task. It will, however give Clinton Co. a huge radio presence in the amateur community. The cost involved is estimated at \$2,000.00. This figure includes the cost of the feedline, tower stand-offs and the labor, which at \$200.00 or \$300.00 will almost be donated. At present, the club has \$1,145.23 in the bank. We still have to pay for our meeting room at the library and the insurance premiums to cover our equipment and anyone who works on said equipment. Any amount you can afford to donate above and beyond the annual dues will be greatly appreciated and go a long ways towards making this project a reality. Thanks in advance for any support that you can give.

And 1 more thing, a big thank you to Mark Phillips, W9PC for all his help getting this news letter put together.

KB9JDW Craig Cooper