

March/April 2005
Volume 2, Issue 2

The Long Wire

Newsletter for the Clinton County Amateur Radio Club of Indiana

Officers:

President: Bill Caldwell,
KC9ERL

Vice-president: Chris
Hosfield, KC9CQD

Sect/Treas: Terry
Lenahan, WM9M

Emergency Coordinator:
Mark Phillips, W9PC

VE Coordinator: Sam
Paul, W9AH

Repeater Coordinators:
Larry Neal, N9SFA and
Jon Crispen, K9JRC

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Club Officer Elections – Coming Soon

During the May club meeting we will be working on the nominations for the club officers of the next year. Currently, we have three officers that are voted on by club members. The process will be for nominations to occur during the May meeting, while actual elections will occur during the June meeting. This will permit a smooth transition for the new officers and/or incumbents into their positions after field day.

Please be thinking of your choices leading up to this event. If you have questions or wonder what the position entails, take a look at the club constitution that is posted out on the website at <http://www.qsl.net/wm9m/ccarc.htm>.

Emergency Communications - Info

The club (via KC9ERL and W9PC) has completed the installation of the VHF/UHF J-pole antenna at the Red Cross Office. The office is located on Clinton Street near the Frankfort Public Library. The antenna was a part of the donation from KC9GLD - Harley which included 3 antennas to be used by the club for emergency purposes.

Another working party for the emergency trailer is being planned very soon, stay tuned for further updates to be sent via email.

Also, this is the final year of the reimbursement program EC-001, EC-002, and EC-003 courses thru the ARRL. To date we have had two amateurs working on this training to better prepare themselves and the club for handling of emergency events that might come up in the future. W9PC-Mark has completed all three courses, while WM9M-Terry has completed EC-001 and is currently studying EC-002.

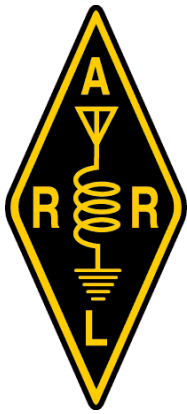
Indiana QSO Party & WIC Award

The annual Indiana QSO party is once again falling upon us. Did you know that Clinton County is a sought ought county for contesters and county hunters? Yep its true, the contesters are looking for you.

The Indiana QSO party is the first Saturday in May. To be

more precise, May 7th 1600 UTC to May 8th, 0400 UTC. The contest is hosted by the Hoosier DX and Contesters Club. It is a great tune-up for the Field Day event in June. Please do your best to help participate; info and rules can be found at <http://www.hdxcc.org/>

Secondly, a new award has also been created by the same club, called the WIC (worked Indiana counties). You can receive your initial certificate once you have 60 counties, Level 1 - 75 counties, Level 2 - 85 counties, and Level 3 - all 92 counties. Info is at their website.



Club Station

"What's in your wallet?"

Do you have your current club member card, signifying your 2005 dues are paid? New membership cards will be passed out at the May Club Meeting to all those whose dues have been paid.

March Club Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Sam, W9AH; Don, K9DGS; Bruce, KC9DHI; Kevin, KC9DYM; Bill, KC9ERL; Phillip, KB8HFO; John, W9ILO; Jon, K9JRC; Tony, KB9LKD; Terry, WM9M; Steve, K9MD; Mark, W9PC; John, N9SEZ; Duane, KB9ZNN

Minutes: Minutes reviewed, amended, and approved. KC9DYM motion to approve, seconded by K9JRC. Voted unanimous.

Treasure Report: balance of \$1765.23.

RACES Report: None

Repeater Report: 440 Repeater is still in Kokomo. K9JRC has \$40.00 in expenses. KC9ERL motion to reimburse and W9AH to seconded. Antenna is now broken at the EMA building. A motion has been made by K9JRC, seconded by KC9DYM, to swap the dual band antenna that is on the elevator give it to the EMA to replace. K9JRC is donating a 440 antenna to go to the Elevator. Motion passed.

ARES Report: Two visitors from the Red Cross, Tarry Rhine and Jennifer Cota. Both are members of the disaster teams. They have been involved with several disasters and are on the board for disaster relief. They are interested in becoming amateur radio operators.

Net report:

- End of the month totals: December 10.4 man hours for 4 nets. 31 total checkins, 12 different stations.
- 2004 Totals: 48 Monday nets, 8 code practices, 3 drills, 4 skywarn nets - 63 total nets, 241 man hours for the year.

Trailer Report: No new information. We need to plan a working/review party to see where we stand and what supplies we need. Party scheduled for 19 of March, rain/snow date on 26 of March, at 1:00PM.

Testing Report: The quarterly testing was at the end of January on the 22nd. KC9HBF new technician, and KC9GLD for upgrade of theory. March 5, will be special testing for Boone County class, will be from 9:00-11:00.

Old Business:

- Shirt are delivered.
- Hot Dog Festival, no additional location information. WM9M is authorized to get a vanity call, W9PC and KC9ERL motion and second to reimburse expenses.
- W9PC brought forward a memo to discuss emergency procedures.

New Business:

- 2005 Club dues received from K9ERL, W9PC, W9ILO, W9AH, WM9M, K9JRC (minus reimbursement) for a total of \$90.00 collected.

W9ILO motions to adjourn, W9AH seconded.

ARRL Membership and Club Commission

Did you know? If you are interested in becoming an ARRL member, please let one of the club officers know. ARRL Affiliated Clubs receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal they submit to ARRL Headquarters.

Under the ARRL Club Commission Membership

Recruitment Program clubs retain \$15 for each NEW membership and \$2 for each renewal submitted (regular and senior memberships only). A NEW MEMBER is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for

two or more calendar years prior to the application submission. A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at anytime, even before their current membership term expires.

If you are not a member, consider joining today and receive the benefits of ARRL membership.

April Club Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Sam, W9AH; Don, K9DGS; Bill, KC9ERL; Bill, K9FUE; John, W9ILO; Craig, KB9JDW; Jon, K9JRC; Tony, KB9LKD; Terry, WM9M; Mark, W9PC; Ron, N9RNZ; John, N9SEZ; Duane, KB9ZNN

Minutes:

- Minutes reviewed, amended, and approved. KC9DYM motion to approve, seconded by W9AH.
 - A special recognition was presented during the start of the meeting. During the past month, the ARRL has added to their website a location to see how many different testing sessions the ARRL VE (volunteer examiners) have participated in. We have two members who have been present in over 30 testing sessions. It shows great sacrifice and effort for being prepared and volunteering their time. We normally conduct testing sessions four times a year, so you can see we have had many years of their time. At this meeting a certificate thanking them for their participation was handed out to, W9AH-Sam and K9DGS-Don. Thanks very much!!!!

Treasure report: is \$1907.83.

ARES Report:

End of the month totals: March

33.1 man hours for 6 nets. 54 (new record high) total checkins, 24 (new record high) different stations.

KC9ERL - 6 nets; K9JRC - 5; W9PC, KB9ZNN, N9VXQ - 4 each; KC9GLD, N9SEZ, K9FUE, KC9DHI - 3 each; KC9DYM, N9SFA, W9ILO, WM9M - 2 each; KC9FEO, B9UWR, W9AH, KB9LKD, KW9WUF, KF9HR, W9UR, KC9HFZ, KC9HFX, KC9HGA, N9JUV - 1 each.

Traffic (QTC) 11, 4 Monday night nets, 2 Skywarn "test" nets, 1 Skywarn net.

RACES Report: none

Repeater Report: The 146.61 machine is back in operation and working well. The new repeater from N9SFA has had new crystals ordered and will be ready soon. 440 repeater in inoperable, due to lightning. We will begin investigating filing of insurance claim.

Net Committee reports: none

Trailer Report: Work party on March 19 happened as scheduled with some investigation work being performed. There will be more rear floor repair work to be performed but it is partially completed. The leaks the roof had appeared to be resolved. Several were present including W9PC, KB9ZNN, KC9ERL, K9JRC, KC9DHI, WM9M and N9SFA. We are still working on getting the title for the trailer, it is difficult because it was from Wisconsin.

Testing Report: March 5 had a special testing session. A letter of thanks from the Boone County ARA and KB9KJJ was read for our participation in helping conduct the testing session. The new licenses were KC9HFY-Sam, KC9HFX-Dale, KC9HFZ-George, KC9HGA-Cheryl, KC9HGB-Monica and KC9HGC-Ivan from Greentown, IN. Also we would like to extend congratulations to our own club member, KC9DHI-Bruce, who upgraded to his general ticket.

Another testing session this month on the 23rd, 9:00-11:00 here at the Frankfort Public Library.

Skywarn class occurred during the month of March here at the library, sponsored by the CCARC club. There was good participation and thanks to all who did stop in for making this a successful event.

Old Business:

- No new report on club call sign.

New Business:

- The May meeting will be nominations for officers. Please think about your choices for officers during the next year. The offices are President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasure.

- W9PC had a brief discussion about upcoming field day.

- 2005 Club dues received from KB9LKD, N9RNZ and WB9QYY for a total of \$60.00 collected.

- Discussions about having the new J-pole put up at the Red Cross. It is nearly ready to install and the exact location has been planned.

- K9FUE motions to adjourn, KB9ZNN seconded.

"The Clinton County Amateur Radio Club meets the first Tuesday night at 7:00PM of each month at the Frankfort Public Library on the 2nd floor."

"The Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for May 20, 21, & 22. Have you made your plans to attend?"

“During 2004, CCARC had 63 nets for a total of 241 man-hours.”



“The CCARC AREA/RACES net meets each Monday evening at 8:00PM on the 146.610 MHz repeater system.”

Lightning FAQ - Spring is around the corner.

Question: What happens when a building is struck by lightning?

Answer: A lightning strike to an unprotected building can be catastrophic. Packing up to 100 million volts of electricity and a force comparable to that of a small nuclear reactor, lightning has the power to

rip through roofs, explode walls of brick and concrete and ignite deadly fires. In addition to structural damage, lightning surges throughout power lines causing wire damage and destruction of valuable electronic equipment including computers, televisions, stereos, security systems, etc.

More Facts: Travels as far as 40 miles.

Packs between 35,000 and 40,000 amperes of current.

Can generate temperatures as high as 50,000 degrees Celcius.

Kills nearly 100 people each year in the U.S. and injures hundreds of others.

2005 Field Day

The 2005 Field Day is quickly approaching. There are a few rule changes that will make the bonus point situation look slightly different that it has in the past.

One such change will include the bonus points for each contact made by someone under the age of 18. Another is the submission of

log information via website. Yes everything is moving to the computer age and will probably continue more and more over time.

During the next two meetings we will be discussin the field day operations, planning and scheduling of activities. Please make every effort to attend and help us make this

into another great year. It is always a great event and we look forward to staying ahead of last year.

Testing Your Knowledge

1. Radio Show host Art Bell is as ham. What is his call sign.?

- A. K6UFO
- B. K6AB
- C. WB6TYS
- D. W6OBB

2. Every mobile antenna should have at it's tip a corona ball or tip?:

- A. True.
- B. False.

3. What substance or material was inserted into pneumatic tires in the early days of auto radio installations in order to reduce static?:

- A. BB Shot
- B. Specialized talcum powder
- C. Pulverized chicken feathers
- D. A special grind of sea salt

Answer 1:D; 2:A, The corona ball or tip assists in

dissipating static charges which build up from friction with the air as the auto is driven on the road.; 3:B, A special talcum powder placed in the tires of autos seemed to neutralize friction static resulting from the inner tube chafing the inner lining of the tire.

Contesting with Computers by Mike Dinelli, N9BOR

As a devout CW enthusiast, contesting has become an essential part of my operating routine. I have heard passionate arguments both for and against contests. However, I have found that contesting is just one more way for me to enjoy ham radio.

I enjoy chasing awards, so DX contests help add to the number of countries I work. Domestic contest keep pushing me toward my goal of 5-band, Worked All States, CW. It is not difficult to work 50 more countries or all 50-states in a single contest weekend, even with a modest station. I do it all the time with 100-watts and a ground-mounted vertical antenna.

Operating a contest used to be a tedious endeavor. Prior to computerized contest logging, much time was spent doing paperwork. During the test you logged and duped on paper. After the contest you had to submit more paperwork to the contest organizer, using the proper forms. As we move closer to a paperless society, contesting is leading the way for ham radio.

After a length search for the *perfect* contest software, I decided to purchase **TR**¹ (named after N6TR, the program's author). **CT**² and **WriteLog**³ for Windows are two other popular contest applications. My selection was based on recommendations by serious contesters, the number of contests it supports and the hardware and operating system requirements.

TR and CT are both DOS programs, so you can get by with an old (i.e. inexpensive computer). The first computer I dedicated to logging was a 486SX that I purchased for \$10 (with monitor) at a rummage sale. It worked great.

WriteLog requires a faster computer with more memory than its DOS counterparts. However since it is Windows based it has some neat additional features. Utilizing your computer's sound card, WriteLog supports RTTY and PSK31 without the need to purchase anything else. It can also use your sound card as a *voice-keyer*. Instead of speaking the repetitive contest phrases into your rig's microphone, your computer can say them for you in your own voice.

Besides eliminating the paperwork, computer contest loggers send CW via the keyboard using a simple interface via the parallel or serial port. Solid state rigs can use a single transistor interface to key the rig. Older grid block keyed rigs, like mine, require two transistors. There are other interfaces that utilize an optoisolator in their circuit.

A drawback to using a Windows based program for CW contesting is that there is no direct control of the serial parallel port by the computer hardware. Windows says if you want to use that port to send CW, you are going to have to go through me first. This can create timing errors, which make your CW sending erratic.

A typical contest exchange might be a signal report and QTH. In TR, you call CQ by pressing the enter key. You can also set it to auto-CQ, or repeat the CQ call after any time interval you select. When a station answers, you type their callsign and press enter again. TR will send the station's call and "599 IL." The other station will sent their exchange and you type it into the computer. Then you press enter and TR will send "73 de N9BOR TEST." That contact is now logged, the multiplier checked off (if any) and the points added to your running tally. If a station that answers you CQ is a dupe, TR will automatically send "SRI WRKD B4 73 DE N9BOR QRZ."

Contest software can increase your score by giving you instant feedback. The screen tells you which multipliers you still need. If you are operating in an assisted class, you can use a DX packet cluster to help you find those missing mults. The software will also calculate your rate or estimated number of contacts in one hour. When your rate starts to decline, you might consider changing bands, modes or even going into search and pounce mode instead of calling CQ.

At the end of the contest, TR can generate the standard Cabrillo file for submission to the contest's sponsor. You simply attach that file to an e-mail and your contest paperwork is over. If you are really interested in evaluating your performance, TR can generate reports on band changes, rates, locations worked or even analyze the callsign prefixes you worked.

Contest software does not take place of an everyday logging program (e.g. Win-EQF, DX4Win, etc.). It serves to specialized purposes and allows the operator to do on the fly adjustments to his/her operating to improve their score. It also allows you to operate longer because you are less fatigued. It eliminates the paperwork and is a lot of fun. For less than \$100, you can add a dedicated contest logging computer, software and interface to your station. That's a log of bang for the buck.

Mike Dinelli, N9BOR, of Skokie, IL, has been a ham since 1980. His interests include boatanchors, contesting, Dxing and CW ragchewing. You can reach Mike at N9BOR@qsl.net or visit his web site at <http://www.qsl.net/n9bor>. The article was printed in the K9YA Telegraph a newsletter that is distributed by through members of the Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club, you can learn more by visiting their website at <http://www.k9ya.org>

¹ <http://www.qth.com/tr>

² <http://www.k1ea.com/>

³ <http://www.writelog.com/>

**Clinton County
Amateur Radio Club**

Dates to Remember

May

2, Net – W9PC/NCS
3, Club Meeting
7, IN QSO Party
9, Net – N9SEZ/NCS
10, KB9LKD Birthday
16, Net – N9SEZ/NCS
18, WM9M Birthday
24, ARES Emergency Net
23, Net – KC9ERL/NCS
30, Net – KC9ERL/NCS

June

6, Net – W9PC/NCS
7, Club Meeting
11, KC9ERL Birthday
13, Net – N9SEZ/NCS
11, N9RNZ Birthday
18, ARRL Kid's Day
20, Net – N9SEZ/NCS
25 & 26, Field Day
27, Net – KC9ERL/NCS

July

4, Net – W9PC/NCS
5, Club Meeting
11, Net – N9SEZ/NCS
18, Net – N9SEZ/NCS
19, KB9ZNN, K9DGS Birthday
23, VE Testing
24, KC9DYM Birthday
25, Net – KC9ERL/NCS
29, 30, 31, Hot Dog Festival

VE Testing Information

During the month of March, there was considerable reason to celebrate with some new amateurs in the area. The CCARC VE Testing group working to support our neighboring county club in Boone County, conducted a special testing session in conjunction with the completion of their Technician class. During this test session, there was several new Technicians from Boone county to get their license. This included: KC9HFY - Samuel; KC9HFX - Dale; KC9HFZ - George; KC9HGA - Cheryl; KC9HGB - Monica; We had one more out-of-towner drop in, KC9HGC - Ivin. Last and biggest celebration for CCARC is to see our own member KC9DHI - Bruce upgrade from Technician to General. Congratulations, Bruce we look forward to catching you on the HF airways.

The next testing session will be this month, April 23 from 9:00-11:00 at the Frankfort Public Library.

About Our Organization...

The CCARC is an amateur radio club located in Clinton County, Indiana. The club supports and participates in many activities, including Field Day, SkyWarn

activities, Emergency Communications, and testing to name just a few. CCARC also supports the N9SFA and K9JRC repeaters located southeast of Frankfort, IN in

the community of Cyclone. Membership to the club is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and for those interested in learning more about this great hobby.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.qsl.net/wm9m/ccarc.htm

CLINTON COUNTY ARC

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**COMPANY NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 00000**

