

P r o g r a m M e e t i n g

Wednesday, April 25th

"Adding Battery Backup to your 12V Power Supply"

by Steve Van Frank, W9TN

Contact Steve if you bought parts for a box & wish to build it at the meeting.

Upcoming program meetings include these fascinating topics:

FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) Indianapolis

AO40 (and/or other Amateur satellites)

Amateur Television (ATV)

E911 Center

Packet Radio

2-----0

TTTTT	AAA	RRRR	AAA
T	A A	R R	A A
T	AAAAA	RRRR	AAAAA
T	A A	R R	A A
T	A A	R R	A A

President N9GKE Bruce Stewart  
 Vice-Pres W9TN Steve Van Frank  
 Secretary W9YE Bob Martin  
 Treasurer N9ZFG Major Sherwin  
 Director WB9SWD Curtis Sherwin  
 Hamfest WB9BRX David Dull  
 www.w9reg.org

TTTTT	AAA	TTTTT	TTTTT	L	EEEE	RRRR
T	A A	T	T	L	E	R R
T	AAAAA	T	T	L	EEEE	RRRR
T	A A	T	T	L	E	R R
T	A A	T	T	L	EEEE	R R



## COMING EVENTS

25APR01 WED 1930 Program Meeting

28APR01 SAT 1300 VE testing at Red Cross Building

29APR01 SUN 0800-1300 Moultrie ARK, Moultrie/Douglas County Fairgrounds  
SE edge of Arthur, s of Rte 133, behind High School,  
Talk-in 146.655, 444.275, \$5.00  
(rzancha@one-eleven.net)

8MAY01 TUE 1930 Business Meeting

18MAY01 }  
19MAY01 }-- **Dayton Hamvention** (The Ham Event)  
20MAY01 } (www.hamvention.org)

23MAY01 WED 1930 Program Meeting, Field Day Auction

2JUN01 SAT Sangamon Valley Radio Club, Springfield, IL A/ARRL  
(www.w9dua.net)

3JUN01 SUN Starved Rock Radio Club, Princeton, IL A/ARRL  
(www.qsl.net/w9mks)

10JUN01 SUN Wabash County ARC Hamfest A/ARRL  
(e-mail wial&netusa1.net)

10JUN01 SUN Six Meter Club of Chicago, Wheaton, IL A/ARRL  
(www.cyberconnect.com/orion/smcc.html)

12JUN01 TUE 1930 Business Meeting

17JUN01 SUN Lake County (IN) ARC Hamfest A/ARRL  
(www.icongrp.com/~kb9mnq/lcarc/hamfest.htm)

23JUN01 SAT Field Day  
24JUN01 SUN Field Day

27JUN01 WED 1930 Program Meeting

7JUL01 SAT Central Division Convention, Indianapolis, IN A/ARRL  
Indianapolis Hamfest Association  
(www.indyhamfest.com)

8JUL01 SUN Kankakee Area Radio Society, Peotone, IL A/ARRL  
(www.w9az.com)

10JUL01 TUE 1930 Business Meeting

21JUL01 SAT See 25JUL01

25JUL01 WED 1930 Program Meeting, a field trip is proposed and planned  
for Indianaplis on July 21st

5AUG01 SUN Land of Lakes ARC, Angola, IN A/ARRL  
(e-mail sharon.1.brown@gte.net)

**TARA BUSINESS MT'G, 4-10-01**

Mt'g convened at 7:30 pm. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved without changes. Jack Freeman stated that the Sat., July 21 meeting in Ind'y has been confirmed.

Old Business; Steve Van Fleet says that he will talk about a "power board" (12 volts @ 20 amps) at the next Wed mt'g. We are reminded that we will have a FD Auction in May. Members need to be collecting their old stuff to put into the auction to be sold. Bruce Stewart reminded us that he will be out of town and not participating in field day this year.

New Business: Tim Gardner discussed the possibility of replacing the Ten Tec transceiver. We are considering the purchase of an ICOM 746 but will delay this until the next business meeting to give all members a chance at input about the purchase. All members are encouraged to attend the next business meeting to discuss this proposed purchase.

Mark McGregor was voted in as a new member (Seconded by Tim Gardner). Greg Dean's name was then drawn for the drawing but he was not present to collect it.

The meeting was closed at 8:04.

Following the regular meeting another meeting concerning FD was convened by Steve Van Fleet and he will report on that separately in the Tattler.

ATTENDANCE: Major Sherwin, Jim Haynes, Tim Gardner, R. Bruce Stewart, Curtis Sherwin, Jack D. Freeman, Bob Martin, Clyde Mauck, Steve Van Frank, Mark McGregor, Jeff Stewart, Bob Niewerth, Steve Belter.

**Addendems:**

- 1.) VE testing will be held on Sat, April 28, at 1.:00 pm @ the Red Cross Bld'g.
- 2.) April Program meeting.

Steve Van Frank, W9TN will talk about "adding battery backup to your 12 volt power supply" and will assist those wishing to build their own battery backup boxes. Contact Steve if you bought parts for a box and wish to build it at the meeting.

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Program Meeting  
March 28, 2001

3APR01

There was no meeting, so there are no minutes and no attendance sheet.

Bob Martin, W9YE Secr.

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de GEARVAKf BULLETIN May 1979

**HEW ISSUES CONTROVERSIAL REPORT**

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has released a report claiming that exposure to radio waves is harmful to everything. The HEW report stated that the potential effect of the radio waves could mean that people might start to explode as early as 1982 unless they turn off their radios. The report's release was triggered by the experiments of GEARVAKf researcher, Dr. Elwood P. Lishnus. Dr. Lishnus, however, termed that report, "A bunch of bullfeathers!" He said that data from his recent exploding-rat experiments could not be extrapolated to human proportions. HEW spokesman Hodding Spoogettts responded by issuing an official government statement calling Dr. Lishnus, "an old fool." Dr. Lishnus ignored the statement and remained in his laboratory putting together a six-foot copper box, "for further experimentations."

# TIPPECANOE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report  
March 1, 2001 though March 31, 2001

**Income Received:**

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sam Brummett - N9XPZ - Dues 2001	3/13/2001	\$6.00
Steve Scherer - N9QAP - Dues 2001 - 2002	3/30/2001	\$12.00
Charles Bender - WB9QQZ - Dues 2001 - 2003	3/30/2001	\$18.00
Interest on Savings	3/31/2001	\$5.27
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$41.27</b>

**Disbursements:**

**Total Disbursements: \$0.00**

**Summary:**

Beginning Checking Account Balance	3/1/2001	\$285.65
Beginning Savings Account Balance	3/1/2001	\$3,660.25
Beginning Value of CD (Issued 11/08/95, APR 4.86%)	3/1/2001	\$7,206.09
Beginning Cash on Hand	3/1/2001	\$72.00
<b>Beginning Assets:</b>		<b>\$11,223.99</b>
Ending Checking Account Balance	3/31/2001	\$363.65
Ending Savings Account Balance	3/31/2001	\$3,665.52
Current Value of CD (Matures 11/8/01)	3/31/2001	\$7,206.09
Ending Cash on Hand	3/31/2001	\$30.00
<b>Ending Assets:</b>		<b>\$11,265.26</b>



Major W. Sherwin N9ZFG  
Treasurer

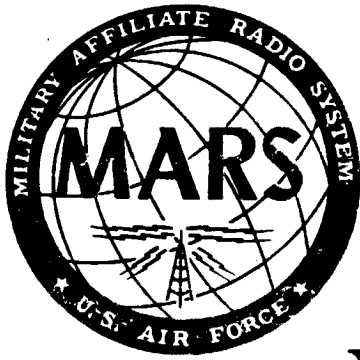
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"My little boy is so smart," bragged one woman to another, that he walked when he was eight months old."

"You call that smart?" challenged her companion. "When my baby was that old, she let us carry her."

The math teacher saw that little Johnny wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and asked, "Johnny, what are 2, 5, 15 and 47?"

The little boy answered quickly, "CBS, NBC, HBO, and the Cartoon Network!"



# INDIANA MARS



## NEWS LETTER

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

VOLUME 2

NOVEMBER -- DECEMBER 1968

NUMBER 6

LUCK OF THE IRISH ---- TRAILER AND RADIO EQUIPMENT GIVEN TO AIR FORCE MARS ----

AFA9YBM



AFB9SMO

MR CLARENCE PURSEFULL

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF CLARENCE and NEVA PURSEFULL OWNERS OF THE "CLAR NEE TRAILER SALES" 702 SO. EARL AVE, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA THE MARS MEMBERS OF LAFAYETTE ARE THE VERY PROUD OWNERS OF THE TRAILER PICTURED HERE. --- NOW TALK ABOUT "THE LUCK OF THE IRISH" TO TOP IT ALL OFF THE LAFAYETTE RADIO STORE, EQUIPED THE TRAILER WITH THE NECESSARY NEW RADIO EQUIPMENT TO COMPLETE THE SET UP. JUST HOW LUCKY CAN YOU GET ?

## Bruce Stewart travels the world from his basement

from the

Lafayette Leader  
March 30, 2001  
Pages 2 & 3

Photo and story by Ruth Foster  
The Lafayette Leader

He may be in his basement, but he's traveling the world!

"I get in my car and drive to work in the morning, but here's the thing," says Bruce Stewart, his eyes lighting



Stewart

up. "I was just talking to someone in Sri Lanka—that very morning."

Stewart (operator number N9GKE) is an amateur radio operator with a very special interest: islands.

MacQuarie Island, Kingman Reef, South Shetland Island, Iceland, Jamaica, Jersey Island, Aruba, Tonga, and South Cook Island. You may not have ever heard of them, but Stewart certainly has. Despite being landlocked and without an ocean in sight, Stewart has talked to residents on all these islands and received postcards confirming their contact.

### Islands by the hundreds

There are many facets when it comes to amateur radio. "Some people see how

many maritime contacts they can make, others how many contacts in a 24 hour period," explains Stewart. "Most people keep track of how many countries you have contacted, but there are even county hunters. That's when you try to make contact with every county in a state."

But Stewart's particular fascination lies with islands. The Royal Society of Great Britain awards certificates to those individuals who have a particular number of certified island contacts.

"I have the first certificate," says Stewart. "The 100 island one. I sent them in 110 confirmations in case there was a problem, but they all worked out. I'm working on my 200 island certificate now. They go up to 700."

100 islands was no easy task. It took time. "Remember, when it's day here, it's night on the other end of the world."

Weather conditions are a factor. "I have a straight antenna. It's not that powerful. I could hear someone from China the other day, but I don't have enough power to work them. So many people pile up wanting a contact because you don't hear from China often, and so I couldn't get in. Even sun spots and solar flares come into it."

The post office also plays a part. "I have to send over a card to everyone I contact, and I have to include IRC Coupons. They cost \$1.75 each." IRC coupons are International Reply Coupons. The recipient can redeem it from his post office anywhere in the world for one air-mail stamp.

### Needed: a great world atlas

"You have to have a great world atlas," remarks Stewart. "I keep on getting contacts from places I have never heard of."

One such place was Tashima Island. A Japanese gentleman from Hiroshima journeyed to this tiny island between Japan and Korea, set up, and sent out the message that he was there and ready for contact.

"That was a great one," remembers Mr. Stewart. "That island wasn't in my book, and so my dad had to help me."

Pointing out that radios are useful tools for teaching geography, Stewart showed a postcard that he had received from a 4th grader in New Jersey, thanking Stewart for his contact.

"As long as a licensed operator is there, the kids can talk and use the equipment," explains Stewart as he turns over the postcard and notes the elementary school address. "Can you imagine what those school kids in New Jersey are learning? They're talking to people from places that they probably had never heard of. It makes the world real."

Stewart continued, "Some operators actually send tourist information, entire packets about special places in their countries. It has literally opened up the world to me, and it can to those kids."

### What radio operators can do to help

The current president of TARA, the Tippecanoe Amateur Radio Association, Stewart says that every member is there to serve.

"We may be amateurs, but we all do what we can to help. We work with the Red Cross, and during Desert Storm, we relayed messages for them about families. We've helped during storms when power is out. We have relayed distress signals from boats and airplanes, and

March 30, 2001

(Continued from page 4.)

once when a hurricane knocked out everything in some Caribbean Islands, it was the amateur radio people that were relaying the extent of the damage and what was needed."

Stewart also points out that TARA members work hard to stay prepared. "We have particular field days where we test to see if there was a real disaster how capable and prepared we are when it comes to doing the job—relaying the necessary information."

### A blanket of crabs

TARA meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month for its business meeting and every 4th Wednesday for general meetings at the Red Cross Building located at 111 S. 7th Street.

"The general meetings are usually some type of presentation," explains Stewart. "Last time we had this guy who had gone to Clipperton Island to make contacts there."

"Clipperton is nothing but this tiny uninhabited atoll on top of a volcano in the South Pacific. As the sun set, there would be this orange blanket covering the sand—it was the crabs coming out to scavenge. They had to put up fences to keep the crabs out of the equipment and off of them."

## Report from the April Field Day Planning Meeting

Steve Van Frank W9TN

First, let me thank all those who attended our first Field Day planning meeting for 2001. We had a great turnout. I felt there were three strategic issues that had to be resolved before we could start working on the details of FD 2001. We managed to resolve all three, and they are:

*.Should we change from 2A to a higher class?* This question arises from the success of our experimental digital effort last year when Dave N9KT ran PSK31 non-stop for several hours. The PSK31 activity heard last year during FD led us to consider the idea of running another station and dedicating it to PSK31. After much discussion, we agreed to add another HF station which would be primarily a digital station running PSK31. This new station could also run phone or CW if required. Adding the digital station changes our class to 3A. Our new exchange will be "3A Indiana" on phone or "3A IN" on CW. That will take some getting used to after sending 2A for so many years! So, we will have five stations: HF Low Band, HF High Band, HF Digital, VHF, and Satellite.

*.Should we network the logging computers?* Our logging software, TR Log, supports a simple RS-232 based networking scheme whereby the logging computers all may share one integrated log. The advantage of networked logging is that we could eliminate the band or mode restrictions that we have always had for the HF stations. Proper implementation of a network like this outdoors would require better noise immunity and isolation than would be possible with RS-232. Fortunately, optically isolated RS-232 to RS-422 converters are available off the shelf for about \$65 each. We discussed all this for a while and decided to take a conservative approach with a built-in backup plan. Our approach will be as follows: Propose that the club buy three optically isolated RS-422 converters, and plan on networking the two original HF stations (not the digital one). But, maintain the band restrictions we had in place last year until we have convinced ourselves that the network is working. We also agreed that we must build and test the network well before FD, since none of us has any experience with TR Log networks. Also, since all the logging computers must be up for the network to function, we will have to pay special attention to how we power the laptops this year.

*.Should we make any antenna changes?* Modeling and analysis by Muck KB9SSS has shown that we could do better with east-west firing dipoles than with the Hs we have been using on the HF high band station. The problems with the H are that we can't get it high enough with the available trees and the fact that it is a complex and difficult antenna to put up and take down. We agreed to propose that the club acquire a small number of multiband dipoles. Tim N9LF volunteered to look into the commercially available ones. We will need at least one for the HF high band station and one for the HF digital station. We will continue to use the large loop on the HF low band station, but it may be desirable to augment the loop with another antenna. We also discussed possibly borrowing a 6m beam for the VHF station, and Tim is looking into this.

A few other issues also came up. We agreed to have a goal of being operational one hour before the start on Saturday. This would mean everything is working at 12 noon. This will give us time to test the radios, the logging computers, etc. and become familiar with the stations. Curtis WB9SWD noted that he may be able to get us some additional deep cycle batteries which could allow us to run without the generators for extended (quiet) periods. Tim N9LF agreed to manage the VHF station, and Steve N9IP and Mark KB9KHM agreed to manage the satellite station. I will be looking for managers for the other stations at the next meeting, so watch out. Tim K9WX has told me via email that he will do the advance PR for us again this year.

Our next planning meeting will be after the May business meeting. We will be discussing the power system, the site plan, bonus points, and other exciting topics. I hope to see you there.

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**www.w9reg.org**

**Membership List**

If you have not visited the site recently, you should. It is very comprehensive. A lot of good quality color pictures, all kind of links to other sights, FCC forms, equipment, scanner frequencies in the area, hamfests, other clubs in the area. I can go on and on, but you need to check for yourself. There may be a better site out there, but this one is of excellent quality. We should all thank all those responsible for its creation, and upkeep. These things do take a lot of time and effort.

K9KRE

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**May Deadline**

Due to our trip to Mecca (Dayton HamVention) information for the May issue should be in by 8AM Monday May 14th. This would include Field Day Auction, Field Day plans & wants, and anything else. They can be sent by U.S.P.S. or e-mail in plain text or Microsoft Works Word attachment, or Word Star. Coming up next, our political analyst will add to the confusion.

K9KRE

**NEW MEMBER(S)**

((actually one who has been absent for the past three years))

Mark Mc Gregor KB9KHM  
 9515 West 350 North Technician  
 Otterbein, IN 47970  
 Home TX 583-0852  
 Work TX 464-2978  
 e-mail kb9khm2@gte.net

**CHANGES for current member(s)**

When KF9WX upgraded to K9WX, it was noted in the April 200 edition but we apparently neglected to update our dBase file what we use for generating the mail labels, membership list, et cetra. Please update your Membership List you received in last months edition.

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It's been a long time since a penny earned was worth writing an adage about.

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Maybe we ought to spell it "taxx"- if anything deserves to be a four-letter word, that does.