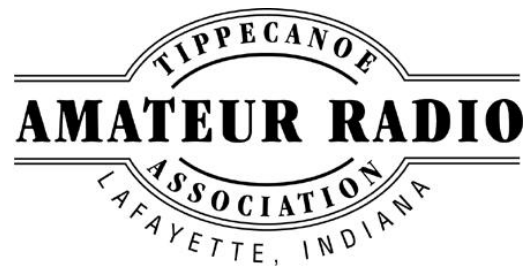


The Official Newsletter
of the

Tippecanoe Amateur
Radio Association

*Serving the
community since
1951*

TARA TATTLER



205th Edition

MAY 2004

Business Meeting:

2nd Tuesday of each month
at 7:30 p.m.

Program Meeting:

4th Wednesday of each
month at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Tippecanoe County
Chapter of the Red Cross
111 S. 7th Street
Lafayette, IN 47901

Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.w9reg.org>

Transportation to Dayton

Need a ride to this year's Dayton Hamvention? A few of our club members are organizing a one-day trip to Dayton and are leasing a large van for those interested in going. **Seats are still available!**

The one-day excursion is planned for Saturday, May 15. The van will be leaving from the Shell station on SR 26 East in Lafayette, at 5:00 a.m. Reservations are required.

The cost for the round-trip is estimated to be \$25-\$30 per person, with the exact price to be set once all reservations are confirmed. (Please note: Hamvention tickets are **not** included and must be purchased separately.)

If you are interested in taking the van to Dayton, you need to make your reservation as soon as possible, before the deadline of Saturday, May 1. Payment will also be required no later than Saturday, May 1. In the unlikely event the trip is cancelled, all fees will be refunded. Seating is limited so act quickly if you are interested in going!

For more information, and to make reservations, please contact:

Cheryl Parker, K9HER k9her@verizon.net 471-8115 (or)
Bruce Stewart, N9GKE 756pro@verizon.net 742-2367

For information about the Dayton Hamvention, including ticket purchases, check out their web site at: <http://www.hamvention.org>

In this issue:

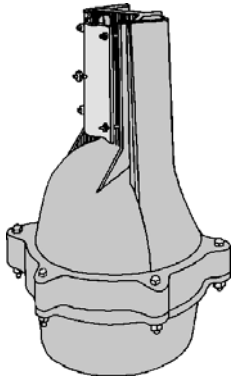
Rotor Is Up!	2
Field Day - Class F	2
Meeting Minutes	3
Financial Report	4
Indiana QSO Party	5
TARA Calendar	5
Our New Look	6

Field Day - Are You Ready?

Club plans for Field Day this year are still being made and **you** can help! The TARA business and program meetings this month, and next, will be laying the groundwork for this year's operations. Curtis Sherwin, WB9SWD, is heading up the Field Day effort again this year and is looking for lots of volunteers. Contact Curtis to see how you can help! His email address is sherwin@purdue.edu. Come join the fun!

Plan on attending these upcoming meetings to help plan the club's Field Day:

Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. (April program meeting)
Tuesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. (May business meeting)
Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m. (Field Day auction!)
Tuesday, June 8, 7:30 p.m. (June business meeting)



Rotor Operational

As you probably know, the rotor at the club station has been out of commission for some time. It was damaged by a lightning strike and had to be sent away for repairs.

The Ham-IV rotor was rebuilt, and underwent extensive testing. On a recent Sunday morning, the rotor was reinstalled and the Force-12 HF beam aligned.

The Hy-Gain Ham-IV rotor for the HF

beam is once again fully operational and working beautifully! Recent DX contacts made from W9REG include R1FJ (Franz Josef Land) and 3B9C (Rodriguez Island).

Special thanks to Joe Rogers, KM9V, for doing the tower climbing and all the work up there! And a big thank you to those on the ground that helped with the repairs and reinstallation: WB9SWD, N9GKE, W9TN, N9LF, WR9A, K9HER, and any others we forgot to mention.

“...many Hams love the traditional, outdoor, in-the-heat-and-mosquitoes, type of portable operation.”



Field Day - Class F ???

At recent TARA meetings, there has been some interest and discussion about operating Field Day this year as a Class F station. Just what *is* a Class F station, you ask? Here's the official ARRL entry category definition:

(Class F) Emergency Operations Centers (EOC): An amateur radio station at an established EOC activated by a club or non-club group. Class F operation must take place at an established EOC site. Stations may utilize equipment and antennas temporarily or permanently installed at the EOC for the event. Entries will be reported according to number of transmitters in simultaneous operation.

In short, it would allow us to operate from the club station at the Red Cross. This means air-conditioning, clean restroom facilities, an available kitchen, and all the amenities the facility has to offer. All of the equipment and antennas currently in-place could be used, providing all the Field Day rules for Class F are followed.

Of course, many Hams love the traditional outdoor, in-the-heat-and-mosquitoes, type of portable operation. It represents the spirit and challenge of what we have all experienced as being the true flavor of Field Day. But is it time to change our thinking? Or maybe at least consider the addition of a new type of “emergency” communications exercise?

With all that has happened since 9-11-2001, Emergency Operations Centers are becoming a focal point for government agencies and volunteer organizations. Amateur Radio has always played a part in providing disaster communications, and our role in supporting operations at local EOC's is vital.

The Class F category for Field Day merely provides groups the *option* of operating from established EOC's. If that's something we feel is timely and warranted for our club, then maybe we should consider that an option this year. Consider, too, that some club members who are reluctant, or even unable, to venture out into the heat and wilderness of our usual Field Day site, may be inclined to pay a visit, or even participate in operating, if it were held at the Red Cross.

Attend upcoming TARA meetings and voice your opinion about Field Day!

Minutes of the TARA Business Meeting - 13 April 2004

by Tim Gardner, N9LF, Secretary

Members in attendance:

Bruce Stewart, N9GKE	Steve Van Frank, W9TN	Clyde Mauck, K9JWI
Curtis Sherwin, WB9SWD	Alex Younts, KC9CYK	Greg Dean, N9NWO
Dave Dull, WB9BRX	Tim Gardner, N9LF	John Parker, KC4YGO
Cheryl Parker, K9HER	Steve Parker, WR9A	Bob Lusby, K9FOH

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 by N9GKE.

The minutes of the March 2004 meeting were read. K9HER made a motion to accept and WB9BRX seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurers report for March shows income of \$100.77 and no expenses with an ending balance of \$8967.45. WR9A moved to accept, K9HER seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

N9GKE and K9HER are organizing a one-day bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention. Contact Bruce or Cheryl if you are interested in going by May 1. Details are on the TARA web page, www.w9reg.org.

New Business

JB Van Sickle, K9KRE has decided (after many long years) to cease publishing the TARA Tattler. After an arduous search, not one, but two new publishers have been found. Beginning immediately, Steve/WR9A and Cheryl/K9HER will take over the publishing responsibilities.

In conjunction with the change in Tattler publishers, we will also begin distributing the Tattler electronically. Paper copies will still be delivered via the US Mail if you prefer. See the next issue for details on how to sign up to receive only the electronic version.

Treasurer John/KC4YGO has some preliminary data regarding ongoing club finances. He is preparing a summary for a future meeting.

Field Day

The Field Day auction is May 26. Please bring some high-class junque (not the same old junk we've seen before). K9FOH suggests that non-radio related items are also in order, for example, a magazine subscription or restaurant gift certificate.

WB9SWD requested last month that everyone who plans to participate in TARA Field Day contact him. Unfortunately, no Tattler was published and the word did not get out.

Please contact Curtis if you plan to participate. He needs to get an approximate count and to wants to know how many want to do Field Day at the Veteran's Home vs. the club station at the Red Cross. Contact Curtis via email at sherwin@purdue.edu or by telephone (days) at 494-1158.

The April program meeting (April 28) will be a tour and demo of the club station by WR9A and W9TN. Anyone wishing to be checked out on any of the club equipment is welcome. The time will also be used to practice a "Class F" Field Day operation.

The drawing for \$6 was not won by Tak, KC9AMT.

Meeting adjourned at 20:12.

Treasurer's Report - MARCH 1-31, 2004

by John Parker, KC4YGO, Treasurer

Income Received:

Jim Collison - K9LYA, Dues 2004	3/09/04	\$6.00
Jennifer Coy - KC9BPF, Dues 2005	3/09/04	12.00
John Coy - KC9BPE, Dues 2005	3/09/04	12.00
Jack Freeman - KF9CT, Dues 2004	3/09/04	6.00
Mike Maddox - W9CBA, Dues 2005	3/09/04	12.00
Rex Thomas - W9WQS, Dues 2005	3/09/04	12.00
Steven Stombaugh - N9DHH, Equipment Donation	3/09/04	39.00
Interest on Saving	3/31/04	1.77
Total Income:		\$100.77

Disbursements:

None	3/31/04	\$0.00
Total Disbursements:		\$0.00

Summary:

Beginning Value of CD		\$0.00
Beginning Checking Account Balance	3/1/04	477.28
Beginning Saving Account Balance	3/1/04	8335.40
Beginning Cash on Hand	3/1/04	54.00
Beginning Assets:		\$8866.68
Ending Value of CD		\$0.00
Ending Checking Account Balance	3/31/04	531.28
Ending Saving Account Balance	3/31/04	8337.17
Cash on hand	3/31/04	99.00
Ending Assets:		\$8967.45

Disbursements after 3/31/04:

\$75.00 Amsat renewal
\$33.06 Quicken purchase

Complementary memberships:

Curtis Sherwin - WB9SWD, through 2007

Indiana QSO Party - Saturday, May 1

The annual Indiana QSO Party (INQP) is just around the corner, and could provide you with a Saturday full of fun! Indiana amateur radio stations will work other Indiana hams and hams worldwide. Those outside of Indiana will work Indiana stations only. There will be base stations, mobiles, portables, and maybe even an aeronautical mobile station, working as many Indiana stations as possible.

Operation will take place on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters in both CW and voice. Every Indiana County is a multiplier. Try to work all 92! The fun element is added by the fact that you may rework the same mobile or portable station in both modes, on every band, every time that station moves to a different county! There will be many mobiles traversing the state, and portable stations activating new counties as they move. The contest runs from 10am-10pm EST, and is sponsored by the Hoosier DX and Contest Club (HDXCC).



Find out more at their web site: <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/>

May 2004

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			April 28 Program Meeting, 19:30			1 - Dayton van deadline IN QSO Party
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 - Armed Forces Day Crossband
9 Mother's Day	10	11 Business Meeting, 19:30	12	13	14 DAYTON	15 DAYTON
16 DAYTON	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Field Day Auction, 19:30	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

- April 28 - TARA Program Meeting, 19:30
- May 1 - Indiana QSO Party
- May 1 - Deadline for reservations for the van to Dayton, contact K9HER, WR9A, or N9GKE
- May 8 - Armed Forces Day Military/ Amateur Crossband Communications Test
- May 11 - TARA Business Meeting, 19:30
- May 14, 15, 16 - Dayton Hamvention
- May 26 - TARA Program Meeting, 19:30, annual Field Day auction
- May 31 - Memorial Day

«City», «State» «Zip»
«Address»
«First Name» «Last Name» - «Call»

Tippecanoe Amateur Radio Association
111 S. 7th Street
Lafayette, IN 47901

TARA Officers

President: N9GKE
R. Bruce Stewart

Vice-President: WR9A
Stephen Parker

Secretary: N9LF
Tim Gardner

Treasurer: KC4YGO
John Parker

Director: W9TN
Steve Van Frank

From the President - Our New Look

by R. Bruce Stewart, N9GKE

I am normally not accustomed to writing an article so please bear with me. As some of you may or may not know, Van has decided after a long tenure as editor of the TATTLER to pass along this responsibility to someone else.

I am sure I speak for everyone when I say “thanks, Van”, for your dedication and service to TARA. His efforts have, for the most part, gone unnoticed. However, it’s time we express our appreciation. I hope everyone will take a moment and e-mail Van (vansland@gte.net) and say thanks.

I would also like to thank Steve and Cheryl Parker for taking over the job as editors of the TATTLER. Of course, any input, suggestions, comments, or articles for the TATTLER would be appreciated. For ease and convenience of the membership we plan to post the TATTLER on the W9REG web site, thereby reducing mailing and copying costs. Of course, for those who would prefer a hard copy we will still continue to mail the TATTLER.

73,
Bruce

