

The Official Newsletter
of the

Tippecanoe Amateur
Radio Association

*Serving the
community since
1951*

TARA TATTLER



206th Edition

JUNE 2004

FIELD DAY - JUNE 26-27, 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>

Email us at:

tattler@w9reg.org

At the last business meeting, it was decided that this year TARA will be operating Field Day as a Class F station, from the W9REG club station at the Red Cross.

Club members will be able to operate the entire contest from the comfort of the station at the Red Cross building. No worries this year about rain, heat, humidity, or mosquitoes. And there will be a lot less work with no tents or antennas to erect, no equipment to haul out into the middle of nowhere, and, on Sunday afternoon, no tearing down and packing away all of that stuff when everyone is exhausted!

All of the station's equipment and antennas can be used, and it should be a real treat now, with the rotor working again and that huge Force-12 beam at the top of the tower. It will be especially nice to have the air-conditioning, access to a kitchen, and clean restrooms.

So, now that the environment for operating Field Day this year is much more comfortable, we're hoping more TARA members show up to operate! At least stop by for a while and see how you can help in our Field Day efforts.

Curtis Sherwin, WB9SWD, is heading up the Field Day activities again this year and is looking for plenty of volunteers. Contact Curtis to see how you can help! His email address is: sherwin@purdue.edu

Field Day Auction - this Wednesday, May 26 6:30 p.m. at the Red Cross



from the editors, WR9A and K9HER:

We're working hard to make the Tattler *your* newsletter. We'll try to keep you up to date on all the latest ham radio news, events, contests, hamfests, and club activities. Have an idea for an article that you think others might be interested in reading? Write one and send it to us! Like to see something new and different in the Tattler? Let us know what you're thinking!

Email us any time at: tattler@w9reg.org

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Class F Station FAQ's

Reprinted by permission from the ARRL Field Day package.



“Class F stations may contact any station participating in ARRL Field Day.”

Why an EOC category for Field Day?

Class F encourages ARES, RACES or local radio club groups to develop working relationships with their EOC or to practice an existing emergency plan.

What qualifies as an EOC?

To qualify it must be either a) a Federal, State, County, City or other Civil Government agency or administrative entity; or, b) a chapter of a national or international served agency (such as Red Cross or Salvation Army) with which your local group has an established operating arrangement.

Who may Class F stations contact?

Class F stations may contact any station participating in ARRL Field Day.

Our county EOC is wired for emergency power but it will not be used during Field Day. May we still claim the emergency power bonus for each transmitter?

We understand that it is costly for an EOC to run their emergency power generators for an extended period of time to accommodate a Field Day operation. In order to claim the bonus a Class F station must provide a statement from an EOC official showing that a test of the emergency generating equipment was done during the Field Day period. If such documentation is provided, the Class F station may claim the emergency power bonus.

Is there a limit on the number of transmitters for a Class F operation?

Stations may use as many transmitters as they desire, within the other rules of the event. Keep in mind that you must coordinate your operation with the EOC staff so as not to interfere with their daily functions.

May Class F stations have a GOTA station and the additional VHF station?

Unless otherwise stated, all provisions of Class A stations apply to the Class F operation. If they are operating at least as 2F, Class F stations could use both additional stations.

Just what is Field Day ?

That's a good question, and if you asked ten hams, you would probably get ten different answers. Some would say that Field Day is a contest, others would say that it is an emergency preparedness exercise, still others would say that it is a party and yet others would say that it is a public relations exercise. Who is right? They all are! Field Day is all of those things and more. The best description anyone can find is that Field Day is all of ham radio in one weekend!

During Field Day, ham radio clubs, groups and individuals take to the field in simulated emergency conditions (living in tents and running on generators and batteries). They are given 24 hours to set up as many stations as they are able. In the next 24 hours they are try to make as many contacts as they can with those stations. All aspects of ham radio are used in this pursuit. More than a million contacts will be made on HF and VHF, CW, SSB and digital modes during the Field Day weekend. Bonus points are awarded for making an extra effort such as making contacts via satellites or sending and receiving message traffic.

Field Day isn't just about radio though. Clubs use this biggest of all yearly events for many other activities. With much of the club's membership assembled it is a natural time for BBQ's and other gatherings. Also with all of ham radio on display it is a choice time to show off what we do best. The media and government officials are invited to attend to view what ham radio can do.

As you can see, Field Day is indeed all of ham radio in one weekend and anyone that attends their first Field Day rarely misses one again!

What Can I Do at Field Day ?

Plenty! And visitors are welcome.

Having as large a Field Day as possible gives the maximum amount of people a chance to participate in the event. No matter what you do, whether it is something mainstream such as HF or VHF operation, or something more rare such as digital communications or satellite work, there is a place for you. Even if all you want to do is to pitch in and help to set the stations up or just take a look around and watch what is happening you will be welcome at any Field Day site.

During the fourth full weekend in June, the eyes of the amateur radio community turn towards the annual Field Day operating event. From its beginning back in the 1930's as an event to test the field preparedness and emergency communications abilities of the burgeoning amateur radio community, Field Day has evolved into the largest on-the-air operation during the year. In 2003, contest logs were submitted by over 2,100 clubs, groups and individuals across the US and Canada to the ARRL Contest Branch. These logs showed participation by 33,000 individuals. Over 1.3 million QSOs were reported during the brief 24-hours of the event.

Field Day is officially an operating event rather than a contest. The purpose remains today as it did in the beginning: **to demonstrate the communications ability of the amateur radio community in simulated emergency situations.** Groups across the continent use Field Day as a literal "show and tell" exhibition.

Minutes of the TARA Business Meeting - 11 May 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	Randy Young, KC9BFS
Dave Dull, WB9BRX	Tim Gardner, N9LF	John Parker, KC4YGO
Cheryl Parker, K9HER	Steve Parker, WR9A	Major Sherwin, N9ZFG

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

The minutes of the April 2004 meeting were read. WR9A stated that there was an error on the Treasurer's report last month, which was reflected in the minutes. The ending balance was reported as \$8922.45 but should have been \$8967.45. With this notation, WR9A made a motion to accept the minutes and W9TN seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurers report for the April period shows income of \$37.71 and expenses totaling \$216.67 with an ending balance of \$8788.49. W9TN moved to accept, K9HER seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

N9GKE and K9HER have set up a bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention for May 15.

The Field Day auction is set for May 26. **NOTE: the auction will begin at 6:30pm.** Bring your donations (high class junque, please) to the Red Cross garage beginning at 6:15pm.

New Business

WR9A reviewed the memberships that expired this year and have not been renewed. After a short discussion, it was agreed that an email reminder was in order.

The club received an acknowledgement from AMSAT after renewing our membership.

We received two complementary tickets to the "Father's Day" hamfest in Crown Point (June 20) along with some flyers.

Thanks to a grant from the Alcoa Foundation, the Red Cross is offering free classes in First Responder training. Each class is ten sessions, five hours each. The class is being offered three times, starting May 12, July 14 and September 15. Contact Mary Denham in the Red Cross office at 742-6975 for additional information.

WB9SWD has indicated that there was very little feedback about the choice of a Field Day site and category. Therefore, the 2004 Field Day will be operated from the Red Cross station as a 2F entry. Additionally, they will begin the FD effort operating as QRP/battery (five watts) effort, but may switch to low power (100 watts) if QRP does not work reasonably well.

WR9A asked if it was appropriate to post the Treasurer's report on the web page, along with the rest of the Tattler. After a short discussion, it was decided to not post the full report, but include it as an attachment in the electronic (email) version of the Tattler. Paper copies of the Tattler will retain the report in full.

The drawing for \$12 was not won by Jen Coy, KC9BPF.

Meeting adjourned at 20:11.

EXTRA !

EXTRA!

In future issues,
this page will contain items
available **only** to subscribers of the
electronic edition of the TARA Tattler.

Be sure to check out next month's issue
for a preview of the
“*Page 5*” exclusive content for our
Tattler Online
subscribers!

An Electronic Tattler ?

Most of you have probably already received an email asking if you would like to receive the Tattler via the Internet, instead of having it printed and mailed to you every month. If you haven't received that email, or you haven't yet responded, please consider the advantages of online delivery:

- Instantly receive the latest Tattler (No more waiting for snail-mail!)
- Access to current and past issues from anywhere there is an Internet connection
- No more old issues lying around cluttering up the shack
- Help TARA save \$\$ by cutting monthly expenses

Most members probably don't realize that the printing and mailing cost of just 9 issues of the Tattler exceeds their annual club dues!

Consider postage costs only: 37¢ x 12 issues per year = \$4.44!

One can easily see that for the past few years the \$6.00 annual dues hasn't even met the cost of printing and mailing the club newsletter every month, not to mention other expenses like insurance, equipment purchases, etc.

For those of us with Internet access, receiving the Tattler electronically just makes good sense. We will send you an email reminder every month letting you know when the newest issue is available and provide a link you can click on to download it to your computer instantly. You can then read it at your leisure, save the file for future reference, and if you still want a good, old-fashioned, hard-copy of the Tattler, you can print it out yourself with your own printer.

If you have a computer and Internet access, won't you please consider receiving the Tattler electronically? Keeping the costs down for the club helps keep the dues at a reasonable rate.

Don't have a computer or Internet access, or maybe this all sounds too complicated? *Don't worry* - we're not abandoning you. Printed newsletters will still go out to those that can't or do not choose to receive it electronically.

You say you're ready to start receiving the Tattler via the Internet? G-R-E-A-T

If you're not already signed up for electronic delivery, send us an email at: tattler@w9reg.org
(Be sure to include your callsign, and the email address you want your monthly reminder sent to.)

We are using the Adobe PDF file format to deliver the Tattler to you, so it will download quickly, even if you access the Internet by telephone dial-up.

Most people already have a program on their computer to read PDF-type files, but if not, it's free and here's where you can get it: <http://www.adobe.com/reader>

June 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Wabash Hamfest	7	8 Business Meeting, 19:30	9	10	11	12 ARRL VHF QSO Party Effingham Hamfest
13 ARRL VHF QSO Party	14	15	16	17	18	19 Kid's Day WV QSO Party
20 Father's Day Crown Point Hamfest	21	22	23 X - No program meeting in June	24	25	26 FIELD DAY
27 FIELD DAY	28	29	30			

Schedule of Events

- **May 26: TARA Program Meeting, 18:30, annual Field Day auction**
- June 6: Wabash, Indiana Hamfest - Wabash County 4-H Fairgrounds, Talk-in 147.03+, \$6 admission
- June 8: TARA Business Meeting, 19:30
- June 12: Effingham, Illinois Hamfest - 8AM-3PM, Percival Springs Airport, Talk-in 146.895- (110.9Hz), Free admission
- June 12-13: ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- June 19: Kid's Day Operating Event / West Virginia QSO Party
- June 20: Crown Point, Indiana Hamfest - 8AM-Noon, Lake County Fairgrounds, Talk-in 147.0+ (131.8Hz), \$5 admission
- **June 23: NO PROGRAM MEETING in June.** Take the time to prepare for Field Day!
- June 26-27: Field Day, W9REG at the Red Cross

Tattler Online

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

Contest Corner

The ARRL June VHF QSO Party will run from 1800Z Saturday, June 12, through 0300Z Monday, June 14. The object is to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz.

Kid's Day is Saturday, June 19, from 1800-2400Z. It is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on, on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their station with their children.

The West Virginia QSO Party is scheduled for 1600Z June 19 to 0200Z June 20.

FIELD DAY - 1800Z Jun 26 to 2100Z Jun 27

Details about all of these events, and more, can be found at the ARRL web site: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>

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ONLY
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