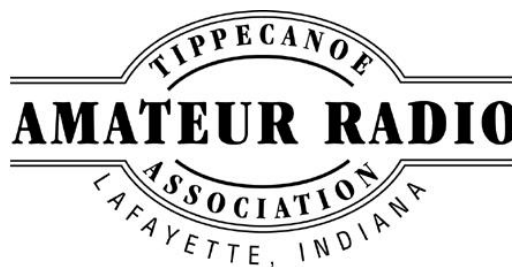


The Official Newsletter
of the

Tippecanoe Amateur
Radio Association

*Serving the
community since
1951*

TARA TATTLER



207th Edition

JULY 2004

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

The Tippecanoe County Chapter of the American Red Cross has received Grant Funding from the Alcoa Foundation to provide Emergency Response training to our community at no cost. The training program is based on the latest advances in first aid and CPR.

The Emergency Responder course teaches the knowledge and skills necessary to work as a first responder in an emergency to help sustain life, reduce pain, and minimize consequences of injury or sudden illness until more advanced medical help can arrive.

Upon successful completion of the Emergency Responder course, each participant will receive an American Red Cross Emergency Response certificate that is valid for three years and a certificate for CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer that is valid for one year.

The total length of the class is 48 hours and is divided into 10 sessions. Classes will be held at the Red Cross in Lafayette, and are scheduled in the evenings from 3:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The next class starts July 14, with another scheduled to start September 15.

There is no cost for the participants, and class size is limited to 10 students. This class will be made available to the community until the Grant Funds are extinguished.

To find out more information, and how to register, contact the Tippecanoe County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Mary Denham, the director of Health and Safety Services, can be reached at 742-6975, or by email at: mdenham.arc@verizon.net

No program meeting this Wednesday Prepare for Field Day 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

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

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“If you aren’t making any contacts or aren’t making them fast enough... switch to the search and pounce method.”

Field Day - Contest?

While Field Day isn't strictly a contest, that is how the entrants are rated, and why not? A contest is a great way to evaluate a station's performance. It is also a great way to simulate message handling which will be a big part of any response to an emergency.

So what is a contest? Put most simply, in a contest the objective is to make as many contacts in as many places as possible in a prescribed amount of time.

For Field Day, the objective is simply to make as many contacts as possible in the 24 hours you are allotted. To make those contacts valid, you have to exchange a certain amount of information. The "exchange" for Field Day is your number of transmitters combined with your entry class (2F) and your ARRL section (Indiana).

So how do you go about making these contacts? Just as you would for any other QSO in amateur radio, there are only two ways to initiate a conversation. You either have to answer someone who is calling CQ or call CQ yourself and wait for someone to answer you.

Which method is better? It is generally accepted that staying in one place, calling CQ and letting the other stations come to you is quicker and less tiring. However, this only works if you have a signal that is loud enough to attract other stations. If you aren't making any contacts or aren't making them fast enough, you are forced to switch to the "search and pounce" method. Excellent operators can rack up the QSO's almost as fast this way. Which ever method you employ, a Field Day contact sounds like this:

"CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, this is W9REG, Whiskey Nine Romeo Echo Gulf, calling CQ Field Day and listening."

"Whiskey One Alfa Whiskey."

"W1AW, thank you, we are Two Foxtrot, Indiana, over."

"Thank you, we are Six Delta, Connecticut, over."

"Thanks for Connecticut, good luck in the contest. This is W9REG, Whiskey Nine Romeo Echo Gulf, QRZ?"

All that is left is to record the contact on your log sheet, or on your logging computer, and get ready for the next contact.

Obviously because of the variability of radio propagation and other factors, many contacts aren't this neat and clean. This is especially true when multiple people are calling you or you are getting interference from another station. But learning to deal with these conditions are part of the lure and purpose of Field Day!

Silent Key - Dave Moffett, N9SBZ

Fellow amateur radio operator and TARA member, David Paul Moffett, 48, of Lafayette, formerly of Indianapolis, died Sunday, June 13, 2004, at Methodist Hospital.

Born on Feb. 28, 1956, in El Paso, Texas, he graduated from North Central High School and also earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Purdue University. At the time of his death he was working towards his doctorate from Purdue.

In 2000, he became a registered professional engineer in Indiana. He had worked for Energy Microsystems in Indianapolis from 1982-84. He worked for Ritron Inc. as the director of management information systems from 1984-90. He also worked for Bernard Lochmueller & Associates as a senior transportation engineer specializing in highway traffic planning from 1992-96.

Since 1991, he had been an information technology and engineering consultant for Vutar Technologies. He also served as associate vice president of information technologies at Purdue.

He was a member of the Tippecanoe Amateur Radio Association, Audio Engineering Society, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the IEEE Computer Society. He was in the process of authoring a book, *Software Engineering: A Rant*, which looks at software engineering and the surrounding political processes.

Survivors include his parents, Paul D. and Suzanne Berry Moffett, a sister, Wendy Moffett Johnson, grandfather, Vergil Berry; aunt, Virginia Berry; and a cousin, John Marsh.

To read David's Life Story, share a favorite memory, order flowers, or make a memorial contribution to Computer Curriculum of Washington Township Schools, please visit <http://www.lifestorynet.com>

Future Newsletter Articles ?

In the coming months, we'll be having some feature articles in the Tattler. Here's a sample of what's in store:

- New Hams - How to Participate in Nets, Learn How Not to be a Lid, and Developing Good Operating Practices
- Emergency Communications - Severe Weather Nets, Storm Spotting, What is ARES?, Developing Good Procedures, Being a Team Player, and Meeting the New Local EC
- Operating - Good Repeater Etiquette, Getting Your Feet Wet in Contesting, Finding the DX, Operating Portable, QRP, 6 Meters - The Magic Band, Why CW is Here to Stay
- Computers and Ham Radio - Packet/APRS Today, PSK31 is Fun!, Sound Card Interfaces, Logging Software for Your Shack, The Internet for Hams
- Equipment - Mobile Installations, Building a Portable Station, Using the Correct Feedline, Read the Manual, Deciding What Rig to Buy Next

Have a Ham Radio topic that's near and dear to your heart? How about sharing your years of experience and knowledge with others? Consider writing an article for the Tattler! Let us know what you'd like to read about, or write about! Email us at: tattler@w9reg.org

Minutes of the TARA Business Meeting - 8 June 2004

by Tim Gardner, N9LF, Secretary

Members in attendance:

Pedro Castillo, WB9RVN	Steve Van Frank, W9TN	Clyde Mauck, K9JWI
Curtis Sherwin, WB9SWD	Greg Dean, N9NWO	Bob Lusby, K9FOH
Dave Dull, WB9BRX	Tim Gardner, N9LF	John Parker, KC4YGO
Cheryl Parker, K9HER	Steve Parker, WR9A	

The meeting was called to order at 19:32 by WR9A.

The minutes of the May 2004 meeting were read. It was immediately noted that a decimal point was missing from the reported expenditures. The correct value should read \$216.67, not \$21667. With this correction, K9FOH moved to accept the minutes and WB9BRX seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurers report for May shows income of \$1.71 and expenses of \$444.04 with an ending balance of \$8346.16. K9FOH moved to accept, K9HER seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

Field Day will be held at the Red Cross chapter house, using the club station and equipment. A battery powered QRP effort (5 watts) will be tried, but with the understanding that a switch to "Low" power (100 watts) may become necessary.

K9FOH asked about the QRP decision, questioning how effective it will be for the phone operators. We also discussed using battery power vs line power (which is permitted for Class F stations). It was pointed out that any logging computers that control the rig (as is typically the case for the CW ops and always the case for PSK31) would also have to be powered from the batteries in order to qualify under the QRP/Battery class.

The next issue is where to place the two operating positions. One can use the regular station, but putting a second station in the shack would be troublesome, due to the local (audible) noise. The basement classroom and outdoors near the tower were discussed. K9FOH volunteered to captain an outdoor station, and will use the wire dipole. That will leave the Triband beam for 10m, 15m and 20m, plus the VHF & UHF antennas for the other station.

WR9A reported that N9GKE searched for a 6m antenna at Dayton, but the dealers had none in stock. N9GKE either has or will place a mail order for a Comet GP15.

We received two tickets to the "Dad's Day" hamfest in Crown Point. K9FOH was the only interested party. We also received two tickets to the June 6 hamfest in Wabash. Unfortunately, we didn't open the mail until June 8. WR9A mentioned that members who have not paid dues for the year have been sent a gentle reminder via email.

New Business

WB9BRX reported that we have reserved the Sheep Barn at the Fairgrounds for this year's hamfest. A quantity of tables should be available. At least one, possibly two, commercial vendors are expected to attend.

(continued on next page...)

(Meeting Minutes continued...) New Business

WB9BRX read a letter asking that we find a replacement for him to take over the web site by the end of August and as hamfest chair for next year. W9TN volunteered to take over the web. Anyone interested in chairing the hamfest should speak up.

WR9A reported that a local ham (not a club member) wrote a letter complaining about the recent "lack of organization" during severe weather nets. Discussion followed and many viewpoints were expressed.

The drawing for \$18 was lost by Alex Younts, KC9CYK.

Tattler Online - Exclusive Content:

What is ARES ?

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.



There are four levels of ARES organization--national, section, district and local. National emergency coordination at ARRL Headquarters is under the supervision of the ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager, who is responsible for advising all ARES officials regarding their problems, maintaining contact with federal government and other national officials concerned with amateur emergency communications potential, and in general with carrying out the League's policies regarding emergency communications.

At the section level, the Section Emergency Coordinator is appointed by the Section Manager (who is elected by the ARRL members in his or her section) and works under his/her supervision. In most sections, the SM delegates to the SEC the administration of the section emergency plan and the authority to appoint District and local ECs. Some of the ARRL sections with capable SECs are well-organized. A few have scarcely any organization at all. It depends almost entirely on who the section members have put into office as SM and whom he/she has appointed as SEC.

It is at the local level where most of the real emergency organizing gets accomplished, because this is the level at which most emergencies occur and the level at which ARES leaders make direct contact with the ARES member-volunteers and with officials of the agencies to be served. The local EC is therefore the key contact in the ARES. The EC is appointed by the SEC. Depending on how the SEC has set up the section for administrative purposes, the EC may have jurisdiction over a small community or a large city, an entire county or even a group of counties. Whatever jurisdiction is assigned, the EC is in charge of all ARES activities in his area, not just one interest group, one agency, one club or one band.

In future issues, we'll take a closer look at ARES and how you can become involved!

W9IMS

On May 25, 2004, W9IMS became the Official Amateur Radio Club of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway -- the first time in history that a ham radio club has received this designation.

W9IMS is conducting special event operations for all three of the events that make up the Triple Crown on Indy's legendary 2½-mile oval, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. These events are the Indianapolis 500, the United States Grand Prix, and the Brickyard 400.



W9IMS operated on the weekends prior to the Indianapolis 500 and the United States Grand Prix, and will be on the air again July 31 and August 1, and August 7 and 8 for the Brickyard 400. They will also be operating intermittently on the weekdays between those weekends.

W9IMS operates on or near the following frequencies: 1840, 3840, 7240, 14070 PSK31, 14240, 21340, 28340, 50140, 144.240 SSB and 146.52 simplex FM. Watch for packet spots at sites such as DX Summit or your local cluster.

Stations that work them will receive a custom W9IMS Indianapolis Motor Speedway QSL card for that event. There will be a unique card for each event! Better yet, any station that takes the "checkered flag" by working W9IMS during each of the three Triple Crown special event operations will qualify for a special certificate. These special events will occur annually, and any combination of years will be valid as long as all three operations are worked or logged.

For an official W9IMS Indianapolis Motor Speedway QSL card commemorating the event you worked, send your QSL card with an SASE (#9 or #10 Business Envelope -- the QSL card will be 3.5 inches by 5.5 inches) to:

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 18495
Indianapolis, IN 46218-0495

If you work W9IMS for all three events and would like the certificate, please send us \$1 USD in the US and Canada or \$2 USD outside the US and Canada. If you want to send one QSL card listing all three event contacts, they can send all three cards and the certificate for the price above. Please email W9IMS if you have any questions at: n9kt@arrl.net

TARA Birthdays

N8WPO	July 7
WB9QQZ	July 17
N9GKE	July 20
K9WX	July 25
KD9JS	July 27
KB9VZD	July 27

* CLASSIFIED *

Do you have some amateur radio equipment you'd like to sell? How about trade? Or maybe you're looking to buy something!

We're making a spot available in each month's Tattler for a classified ads section. Club members will be able to list

any radio related equipment they have for sale, along with prices and contact information. In the market to buy something? Place an ad telling everyone what it is you're looking for.

This service is free to TARA members and placing an ad is easy. Just contact WR9A or K9HER, or email us at: tattler@w9reg.org

July 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Kankakee Hamfest	5	6	7	8	9	10 Indy Hamfest IARU HF Contest
11 IARU HF Contest	12	13 TARA Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	14	15	16	17 Contests! Dayton Air Show
18 Contests! Dayton Air Show	19	20	21	22	23	24 IOTA Contest
25 IOTA Contest	26	27	28 TARA Program Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	29	30	31 Indianapolis Air Show

Schedule of Events

- July 4: Kankakee, Illinois Hamfest - Will County Fairgrounds, Talk-in 146.94-, \$7 admission, <http://www.w9az.com>
- July 10: Indianapolis Hamfest - Camp Sertoma, Talk-in 146.76-, \$8 admission, <http://www.indyhamfest.com>
- July 10-11: IARU HF World Championship Contest, <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/iaru.html>
- July 13: TARA Business meeting, Red Cross, 7:30 p.m., free admission
- July 17-18: Dayton Ohio Air Show, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, <http://www.daytonairshow.com>
- July 17-18: North American QSO Party, RTTY Contest / CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
- July 24-25: RSGB Islands on the Air (IOTA) Contest
- July 28: TARA Program meeting, Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.
- July 31-Aug 1: Indianapolis Air Show, Mt. Comfort airport, <http://www.indyairshow.com>

From the President...

by R. Bruce Stewart, N9GKE, TARA President

Hello,

As you are all aware we had severe storms go through the Lafayette area approximately three weeks ago. It's always been the case with any approaching storm that we activate an emergency net. This time, however, no formal net was activated. Thanks to Dave Dull, KB9BRX, for relaying as much information as he could to the amateur community.

All this being said, we are now in the process of establishing a network of hams to respond in the event of a weather emergency. Of course, this takes individuals who will volunteer their time and equipment to act as spotters and net controls. It is my hope that within the next couple of months, we will have a formal meeting which will include the introduction of the new EC and provide training for those who are interested in participating.

Of course, a great way to participate is to attend the TARA meetings which are held at the Red Cross on the second Tuesday, and the fourth Wednesday, of each month at 7:30 p.m. I hope to see you all there.

73, Bruce

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

Lots of contests this month! No doubt you're still recovering from Field Day, but it's time to keep those operating skills sharpened. Here's a brief summary of what's in store for us in July:

- World Lighthouse Contest: 0600Z, Jul 3 to 1200Z, Jul 4
- IARU HF World Championship: 1200Z, Jul 10 to 1200Z, Jul 11
- North American QSO Party, RTTY: 1800Z, Jul 17 to 0600Z, Jul 18
- CQ Worldwide VHF Contest: 1800Z, Jul 17 to 2100Z, Jul 18
- RSGB IOTA Contest: 1200Z, Jul 24 to 1200Z, Jul 25

There are actually several other lesser-known contests during the month as well, but these are the most popular. There's something to keep you busy every weekend.

Don't forget about the W9IMS special event station! Read more about it on page 6 of this newsletter.

**DX
ONLY
DX**

