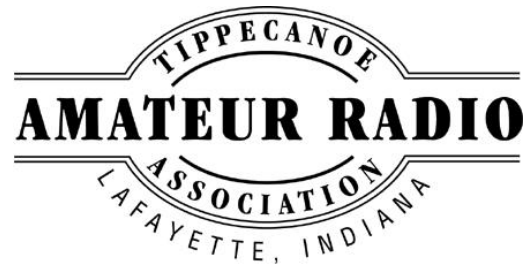


The Official Newsletter
of the

Tippecanoe Amateur
Radio Association

*Serving the
community since
1951*

TARA TATTLER



208th Edition

AUGUST 2004

LAFAYETTE HAMFEST - Sunday, August 15

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

The 34th annual Lafayette Hamfest, sponsored by the Tippecanoe Amateur Radio Association, will be held Sunday, August 15, 2004 at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. Doors will open to the public at 8:00 a.m. and admission is \$4.00.

There is no charge for space for those wishing to set up tables inside, or for those wanting to "tailgate" outside. Setup times will be Saturday, 3:00-6:00 p.m., and Sunday 6:30-8:00 a.m. No overnight parking is allowed at the fairgrounds.

The club will have a table available for members who want to sell a few items, but do not want to set up their own tables. Members are welcome to drop off items either during the setup time on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. We'll do our best to sell your equipment.

This is an ARRL sanctioned hamfest, and ARRL accredited VE's will be administering license exams at noon. Testing will be held at the TARA club station, located at the Tippecanoe Chapter of the American Red Cross. If you plan to take an exam, please bring a valid ID (driver's license, etc.) , your original license (if upgrading), and any CSCE's you may have from other testing sessions.

Please consider helping during the setup times on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, or after the hamfest Sunday afternoon. Contact Dave Dull, WB9BRX, for more information: (765) 743-8305 or by email at: dave@dullville.com



Greentown Hamfest Tickets Available

Anyone interested in attending the Greentown Hamfest on August 8 is welcome to contact us for some complimentary tickets. Only two tickets are available, and will be given to the first club member who wants them. If you're interested, please email us at tattler@w9reg.org or contact WR9A, K9HER, or N9GKE as soon as possible.



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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Elmer who?

by Stephen Parker, WR9A



“Some think that the obtaining of their license was the end of a journey. We know it to be only the beginning.”

It's a wonderful thing that many new hams are entering the hobby with a background in computers, the Internet, and other technological fields. Others are finding their way into amateur radio after experiencing communications with CB or FRS. These days, it seems the first step is getting a license. But it wasn't always that way...

Traditionally, when someone became interested in finding out more about ham radio, they often sought the help of an amateur they knew or had met once. Today, it seems, a lot of folks just get their information from the Internet. While I'm certainly not knocking the valuable resources available via the computer, learning about our hobby this way leaves a lot of holes and makes it all seem a bit impersonal.

After all, this hobby is about communicating with one another. And while a great deal can be learned from the Internet and from the many good books written about the hobby, nothing can compare with the knowledge and experience shared by a good Elmer.

What's an Elmer, you say? Old timers know, as they were probably raised in the hobby by one or more of them. But most newcomers to amateur radio probably haven't even heard the term before. So, for those "newer" generation hams, just think of an Elmer as a "Yoda", in Star Wars terms!

Master Yoda had many things to teach his new young apprentice, Luke Skywalker, who was so eager to learn it all. And once the novice Luke gained just a little bit of knowledge, he thought he was ready to conquer the dark side! But Yoda had to slow down the anxious young student, show him more, make him see and feel the Force from many different perspectives. As Luke gained in knowledge and experience, Master Yoda made sure he was heading in the right directions, and doing it all for the right reasons. Yoda gave young Skywalker not only the tools to do the job, but inspired in him a sense of purpose, responsibility, and conscience.

And so it should be between new hams and their Elmers. There are many things for us to teach the new ones in our midst. Some think that the obtaining of their license was the end of a journey. We know it to be only the beginning. If we falter in sharing the years of experience and knowledge we have with the next generation of hams, then a large part of the heritage and traditions of amateur radio will be forever lost.

Sometimes the hardest part is getting the newer hams to realize they need an Elmer. It's our job, as it was Yoda's, to show them what they don't yet know, instill in them a sense of pride and responsibility, and pass on what we've always taken for granted. Most new hams don't know anything about the "unwritten rules" of amateur radio, the good operating practices they need to develop. Many need to learn about aspects of the hobby that aren't in the FCC rules or on the license exam.

I'm as guilty as anyone of griping about something I've heard new hams say on the air, or commenting about how so-and-so doesn't have any idea what they're doing. I guess if I took on more of the attitude of Yoda, I mean, an Elmer, then maybe I'd be in a better position to mentor these young apprentices and show them how to flow with the Force.

As Yoda would say, "Help teach others to become a better ham, I will. The way to do things that are right will I show them." As the ARRL might say, "Help out new hams. Be an Elmer."

Minutes of the TARA Business Meeting - 13 July 2004

by Tim Gardner, N9LF, Secretary

Members in attendance:

Randy Young, KC9BFS	Steve Van Frank, W9TN	Alex Younts, KC9CYK
Steve Parker, WR9A	Greg Dean, N9NWO	Bob Lusby, K9FOH
Dave Dull, WB9BRX	Tim Gardner, N9LF	John Parker, KC4YGO
Cheryl Parker, K9HER	Ned Sutherland, N9HER	

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 by N9GKE.

The minutes of the June 2004 meeting were read. K9FOH moved to accept the minutes and K9HER seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurers report for June shows income of \$295.62 (mostly FD auction) and expenses of \$92.09 with an ending balance of \$8549.69. W9TN moved to accept, K9FOH seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

Field Day was held at the Red Cross chapter house, as class 3F/Battery-QRP and judged to be a success. In addition to earning about 4300 points, the group received several visitors Red Cross.

N9GKE has received a new antenna for 6 meters. Installation is pending.

New Business

We received cards from Suzanne Moffett and the Washington Twp School Foundation thanking us for the donations, in memory of David Moffett, N9SBZ.

Ned Sutherland, N9HER, petitioned to re-join the club and was given unanimous approval.

WB9BRX reported that he has purchased several of the smaller prizes for the hamfest, and expects to make arrangements for the main prize in the near future.

Volunteer coordinators for key tasks:

Food:	N9ZFG
Setup:	N9GKE
Club table/talk-in:	N9LF
VE Testing:	KF9UP

The drawing for \$24 was won by Cheryl Parker, K9HER.

Meeting adjourned at 19:54.

For the New Hams: Some Good Operating Tips

In order to maintain and further develop this professional, yet fun and friendly hobby, we need to observe the “unwritten rules” of amateur radio. These are simply good operating practices - a list of do’s and do not’s. Violating them will not necessarily get you a notice from the FCC, but it might label you as a “lid”, or poor operator, in amateur radio terms. You’ll soon discover that more hams will want to talk with you when you observe good operating habits, and it will be easier to make new friends on the air.

These are some operating tips that we all need to follow, and especially for newer hams that may have previously been CB’ers. First of all, it’s likely that most hams have at one time or another been on CB radio, and some may still use it regularly. But amateur radio is not CB, and CB jargon and operating habits need to be left on CB. Using CB lingo on the local repeater is the quickest way to let everyone know you’re a “lid”.

These suggestions should not be taken as criticism or seen as the pointing of fingers at any one individual. We’ve all been guilty of some of them at one time or another! They are simply good operating habits to help both old and new hams alike sound more experienced and professional on the air. We can all improve our on-the-air etiquette.

- The main thing to remember is to just **talk normal**. Talk just like you would with someone in person. There’s really nothing different about talking over the radio. If you want to fit in, just talk normal.
- Be sure the frequency is clear before you transmit. When you first turn on the radio or tune to a different frequency, pause and listen for at least 30 seconds before transmitting.
- Don’t use the word “break” to interrupt a repeater conversation unless you have an emergency. While this term may seem expedient, it is not recommended for normal use. Simply insert your callsign to gain attention.
- Don’t interrupt a conversation unless you have something to add. You wouldn’t walk up to two strangers talking on the street and try to change the subject, would you? Or continue to jabber on and on with someone just because you were bored and wanted something to do? Ham radio is supposed to be open and friendly, and joining in on your friends’ conversations is part of the fun. But please do it with common sense, and refer to the first tip - **talk normal**. Try to get along with others and be polite just as you would in person.
- Don’t be guilty of over-ID’ing on repeaters. You may be very proud of your callsign, but others do not need to hear it every time you transmit. Once every ten minutes will suffice, and at the end of a contact. Besides, most of the “regulars” you talk to every day already know your callsign, don’t they?
- While we’re on the subject, you do not have to give the callsigns of all the other people in your conversation, or even of the one person you’re talking with. They know who they are and so does everyone else when they identify. Rules for ID’ing only require that you give your callsign, not the callsign(s) of the station(s) with whom you are communicating. When you know the person you’re speaking with by name, and even by the sound of their voice, follow the advice of the first tip - **talk normal**. Giving the callsign of the station you’re talking with, followed by your own, is okay to do at the start of a contact, and perhaps again at the end, but, please, not every time you identify.

We all have a responsibility to maintain certain standards for our hobby. Let’s make sure we pass along operating practices that can keep Amateur Radio a hobby we can all be proud of. We’ll have more tips in future issues.

TARA Birthdays

WR9A	August 11
WB9WLU	August 24
K9FOH	August 25
N9ZFG	August 30

* 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

August 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Indianapolis Air Show JUL 31-AUG 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Broad Ripple Hamfest
8 Greentown Hamfest Hamfesters Radio Club Hamfest	9	10 TARA Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	11	12	13	14 Madison County Tailgate Hamfest
15 Lafayette Hamfest	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Vermilion County ARA Hamfest	23	24	25 TARA Program Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Schedule of Events

- July 31-Aug 1: Indianapolis Air Show, Mt. Comfort airport, <http://www.indyairshow.com>
- August 7: Broad Ripple Hamfest, 7373 Westfield Blvd., Indianapolis, <http://www.indyradioclub.org/hfk90oa2004.htm>
- August 8: Greentown, Indiana Hamfest, Talk-in 147.24+, \$5 admission, <http://www.grantarc.com/greentown.html>
- August 8: Hamfesters Radio Club Hamfest, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone IL, 146.52, \$8, <http://www.hamfesters.org>
- August 10: TARA Business meeting, Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.
- August 14: Madison County Tailgate Hamfest, Linwood (N of Anderson IN), free admission, <http://www.w9vcf.org>
- August 15: Lafayette Hamfest, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Talk-in 147.135+, \$4 admission, <http://www.w9reg.org>
- August 22: Vermilion County IL Hamfest, Danville, IL, Talk-in 146.82-, \$5 admission, <http://www.talk.to/VCARA>
- August 25: TARA Program meeting, Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.

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

Even though it's summer, there are still plenty of contests to help keep our skills sharp and give us plenty of practice for the big contests this fall and winter. Here's a brief summary of what's in store for us in August:

- National Lighthouse Weekend QSO Contest: 0001Z, Aug 7 to 2359Z, Aug 8
- North American QSO Party, CW: 1800Z, Aug 7 to 0600Z, Aug 8
- North American QSO Party, SSB: 1800Z, Aug 21 to 0600Z, Aug 22

In addition, there are several state QSO parties in August:

- Maryland-DC, August 14-15
- New Jersey, August 21-22
- Hawaii and Ohio, August 28

Don't forget about the W9IMS special event station on the air this coming weekend (July 31-Aug 1) through August 8, to celebrate the Brickyard 400. More details can be found on page 6 of the July Tattler.

