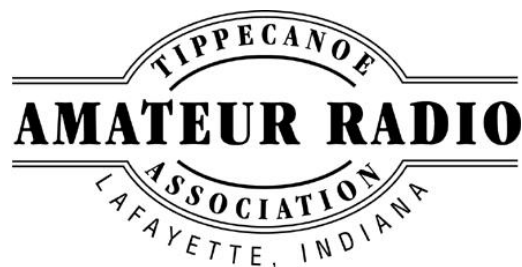


The Official Newsletter  
of the

Tippecanoe Amateur  
Radio Association

*Serving the  
community since  
1951*

# TARA TATTLER



211th Edition

NOVEMBER 2004

## TARA Hamfest Analysis

*by Bob Lusby, K9FOH*

There are a number of issues related to the TARA Hamfest. The thoughts expressed below are primarily my own and are not necessarily the club's position. However, I have talked to a number of local hams, both members and non-members of the club. The issues and concerns are provided for consideration by the club. The intention of the club, I believe, is to appoint a committee to determine the future of the Hamfest. The following will be submitted to the TARA club for consideration, review, and discussion. The items, for the most part, are presented in question format. These questions are the ones that I feel are significant, or relevant to the issue, and may include answers from myself or other hams. There is no particular order.

### 1. What is the primary purpose of the Hamfest?

- a. To raise money for the club.
- b. A social gathering primarily for local hams.
- c. To promote ham radio in general for the local and surrounding community.
- d. To provide a place for hams to buy (new and used) and/or swap equipment.

### 2. How do we increase attendance at the hamfest?

- a. Get more vendors, both commercial and non-commercial.
- b. Broaden the scope to attract more Purdue students, computer buffs, model airplane enthusiast, younger folks, etc.

### 3. The location is not the most desirable.

- a. Bob Rohrman cannot be competed with. And he ain't gonna change. So, what can the club do?
- b. The Purdue Armory has been suggested (several times by different hams). Cost is about the same as the fairgrounds, maybe a tad bit higher.
- c. Bishops Woods, the Amphitheater, Murdock Park, or other locations have been mentioned as possible alternatives.
- d. More to the rear of the fairgrounds near the YMCA and use the Home-Ec building. Gets us away from the sheep dung. There is an ample gravel parking area, albeit not necessarily shaded, in the area.

(Continued on next page ...)

*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](mailto:tattler@w9reg.org)

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## TARA Hamfest Analysis (Continued)

**4. The cost of running the hamfest is getting close to exceeding the income we make.**

- a. We should be paying for the area where the tailgaters park. This would up the cost and put it in the range of what it would cost for the Purdue Armory.
- b. We made a net profit of about \$400, including the food concession. Is this worth the effort?
- c. Clearly the ticket price needs to be raised to at least \$5. This would be in keeping with other similar sized fests. This would also reduce the 'change' problem.

**5. The day of the week and time of the day is not the best.**

- a. Sunday at the fairgrounds is flea market day. It doesn't make any difference to the passersby when they see cars with 'stuff' under the trees, it's the wrong side of the fairgrounds, and the wrong Sunday of the month; they still drive in and ask.
- b. We miss the majority of the church crowd because of the opening/closing time and day of the week. Most of the outside vendors have packed and have left by 10am, well before any churchgoers would be coming. Sunday would probably be okay, if the opening time was changed to 9 or 10am.
- c. Some vendors who drive in from out-of-town don't like having to leave their home at 4am to get here when the gates open.
- d. A Saturday hamfest would eliminate most of these issues, except for the early departure, unless the opening time was also changed.

**6. Move the hamfest weekend to after Bob Rohrman's car show. Move it until after Purdue opens for the fall semester. Labor day weekend perhaps?**

**7. The attendance at the most recent hamfest was about 250. Is this an acceptable number?**

**8. Are there activities that could be added to the fest to entice new attendees?**

- a. A foxhunt has been mentioned.
- b. A contest for home-brewers was offered as a suggestion. My experience with this at the Indianapolis hamfest indicates that it doesn't attract very many entries.
- c. A QRP forum or an operational station set up for visitor's to view. This is a long-standing feature at Dayton, by commercial vendors, I think. I've tried a display station of all-American made equipment a couple of times, I've seen Danny set-up a large display of vintage equipment at Danville, Illinois, and an AM-station was set-up at Dayton at least. Not sure if this can be equated to increased ticket sales, however.

**9. Should the hamfest be changed back to a social gathering at one of the local parks?** Apparently this was actually how the swap-meet trend started in by-gone days. Murdock or Columbia Park has nice facilities. A picnic with some raffle tickets may not raise as much money. But on the other hand, it might bring out more hams from the local community and in-turn increase club membership.

**10. Amateur license testing should be at the hamfest site.** Over the years, this has been one of the reasons given for not setting up a table at the fest. As I recall, the most that have taken a test is a half-dozen or so at any hamfest testing session. Let them in the hamfest for free if they want to take a test, if that's the issue.



Editor's Notes: Enclosed with this newsletter is a quiz that Bob has written that goes along with this article. (*He is a school teacher, after all.*) I'm sure Bob, as well as other TARA Hamfest Committee members, would appreciate your responses. The more input we have from club members, the better we will be able to assess hamfest interest and determine the future direction and scope of hamfest activities. Please consider filling out the questionnaire and provide us with your opinions and ideas.

## Minutes of the TARA Business Meeting - 12 October 2004

by Tim Gardner, N9LF, Secretary

### Members in attendance:

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

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

The minutes of the September 2004 meeting were read. WR9A moved to accept the minutes and K9HER seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurers report for August (tabled from the August meeting) shows income of \$1605.67, expenses of \$732.61 and a closing balance of \$8632.58. The report was accepted on a motion by K9FOH and a second by WB9SWD.

The September Treasurers report shows income of \$93.83 and expenses of \$8.00 with a closing balance of \$8717.41. K9FOH moved to accept the report. KC9CYK seconded and the motion passed.

### Old Business

There have been no volunteers to chair the hamfest for next year. The notion of an advisory committee was again discussed but no formal action was taken.

### New Business

N9GKE reminded us of the upcoming officer elections. The current president and secretary have reached their respective term limits. The current vice-president and treasurer are eligible for another term. KC4YGO agreed to accept a nomination for a second term as Treasurer. WR9A has not indicated if he would seek a second term. Nominations will be opened at the December business meeting and the elections take place in January. Is it your turn to step up and take a leadership role?

N9GKE is already making plans for the banquet dinner next January. The dinner will be held at the Checkerboard tavern (Kossuth St near South 14<sup>th</sup>). There is a private room available and minors are welcome to attend. More information will be made available as the date approaches.

The annual audit of the books will be conducted by WB9SWD and N9GKE.

K9FOH started a discussion about the possibility of raising the club dues. A spirited (and completely familiar) discussion ensued. On a motion by KC4YGO and a second by WR9A, it was agreed to vote on raising the annual dues at the November meeting. In accordance with the bylaws, if the vote passes, a second vote at the December 2004 meeting will be conducted. If that second vote also passes, the dues will be raised, effective January 1, 2005. The exact amount of the proposed increase has not yet been settled, but the figure of \$10 per year was discussed.

The drawing for \$12 was not won by George Stine, AA9LL.  
Meeting adjourned at 20:19.

## Contest Corner

It's time to make those last minute preparations, like installing new coax connectors, putting up antennas, testing the latest version of your contest logging software, and making sure the XYL doesn't have plans for you during the weekends this month!

Contest season is getting ready to go into high gear as this issue of the Tattler is being distributed, with the CQ WW DX Phone contest kicking things off this coming weekend, October 30-31. Even if you're not a die-hard contester, this is a great opportunity to get your feet wet, as the exchange is short and simple, and DX stations everywhere will be eager to work **you!** The CQ WW contest is an easy way to add new countries to your DXCC tally. For more information on the CQ WW DX contest, visit: [www.cqww.com](http://www.cqww.com)

**DX  
ONLY  
DX**

The weekends in November are busy ones for the serious contesters, and this year is a special treat. 2004 is one of those rare years where the Sweepstakes Phone contest is *NOT* the same weekend as the Fort Wayne Hamfest! We can go and leisurely enjoy the hamfest this year, without having to rush to get back home by 4:00 p.m.

So, whether your bag is CW or Phone, or both, this is one of the biggest contesting months of the year. Let's hope those sunspots hang around a little bit longer and provide us with some good propagation on the higher HF bands. Some scientists are predicting a shorter sunspot cycle this time, with the lowest numbers expected within the next 2 years. If their prediction is correct, the bands will be at their peak again as soon as 2010.

Just a reminder to TARA members: the club station has some pretty decent equipment, a dynamite beam antenna, and is available if you'd like to try working some of the contests from there. If you don't have key access to the club station, just contact one of the club officers if you're interested in operating from there. (I would probably be operating from there myself this weekend if I didn't have my new beam up at home already. Thanks to N9GKE, W9TN, K9FOH, K9HER, and Mrs. N9GKE for the help getting it installed.)

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**\* CLASSIFIED \***

**For Sale: Dentron GLA1000 Amplifier**

80-10M, asking \$250.

Contact Kevin Crow, KA9VXS

**For Sale: MFJ 890 DX BEACON MONITOR**

It is about a year old and used sparingly. It is complete with box, power cord (12v) and the instruction manual. I looked on the R & L website, and their price is 87.95 and I am asking \$70 for this one. You can contact me evenings on the 147.135 repeater or at 447-0147. Thank you and 73.

Jim, WA9LYC

**Wanted:** HF SSB transmitter (not a transceiver) such as a Drake, Hallicrafters, or Johnson. Want to mate it with a Drake R-8B receiver. Also looking for a Heathkit HX-30 six-meter SSB transmitter. Not interested in a restoration project. Bob, k9foh, 477-1280

**Wanted:** QRP and six-meter equipment. Always interested in models that I have not used before as well as old favorites. k9foh, 477-1280

**Wanted:** Drake VHF converter for the R-8 series receivers. Drake accessories for the TR-270 FM transceiver including the TNC-270, Demod 270, and the carrying handle. Bob, k9foh, 477-1280

**Kit building service:** Will build any of the Elecraft transceivers and/or accessories for a nominal fee. Special price for Senior Citizens and anyone with a physical disability. You purchase the items you want and I will build it for you. You must include the pre-wound toroids. Have built two K-2s, two-K-1s, one KX-1 and most of the accessories for these units. Bob, k9foh, 477-1280

**This classified ad service is free to TARA members and placing an ad is easy. Just contact WR9A or K9HER, or email us at: [tattler@w9reg.org](mailto:tattler@w9reg.org)**

# November 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Election Day	3	4	5	6 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest - CW
7 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest - CW	8	9 TARA Business Meeting, 7:30 pm	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 Fort Wayne Hamfest
14 Fort Wayne Hamfest	15	16	17	18	19	20 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest - Phone
21 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest - Phone	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27 Evansville Hamfest CQ WW DX Contest - CW
28 CQ WW DX Contest - CW	29	30				

## Schedule of Events

- November 6-7: ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest, CW
- November 9: TARA Business meeting, Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.
- November 13-14: Fort Wayne Hamfest, Talk-in 146.88+, Doors open at 9:00 a.m., \$5 admission, \$3 parking
- November 20-21: ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest, Phone
- November 25: Thanksgiving Day
- November 27: Evansville Hamfest, Talk-in 145.15+ (PL 107.2), Doors open at 8:00 a.m., \$6 admission
- November 27-28: CQ World-Wide DX Contest, CW

### TARA Birthdays

<b>K9ICQ</b>	<b>November 10</b>
<b>WB9RVN</b>	<b>November 14</b>
<b>KE9KA</b>	<b>November 25</b>

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 . . .

I feel that there are several issues that need to be addressed before the end of the year.

The first issue for your consideration is the increase in dues for TARA members. Currently the dues of \$6.00 just covers the cost of our insurance, that being our liability insurance, and the cost to insure our equipment at the Red Cross. Please note that the club has additional funds. However, I would hate to see those funds be diverted to pay for everyday expenses. So, at the next TARA business meeting, Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, we will discuss, for the benefit of the club, the raising of membership dues. I hope you will take this opportunity to attend and express your views with regard to the increase.

Also, if you have not done so, please consider running for an office. This year the positions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary will be available. If you have not done so, please consider running for one of these positions.

Another item for consideration is the Lafayette Hamfest. Should we continue to sponsor this event?

So as you can see, we have a lot of business to complete before the end of the year. I hope you will all make plans to attend the next TARA business meeting.

73,  
Bruce, N9GKE



## Hamfest Quiz

The following questionnaire/quiz is intended to get you thinking about some of the things it will take to actually increase ticket sales and bring in more vendors. If you want to actually take the quiz and get it back to me, I will tally the results; otherwise it is just to get you thinking about the hamfest.

1. Did you attend the most recent TARA hamfest?    Yes    No
2. If you attended, did you set up a table or bring some equipment to put on the club table?    Yes    No
3. Did you invite someone from the local or other area to come to the fest?    Yes    No
4. Did you bring or offer to bring one of our senior citizen hams to the fest?    Yes    No
5. Did you help with the set-up or takedown of the hamfest?    Yes    No
6. Did you help during the fest with ticket sales, food booth, club table, etc?    Yes    No
7. Do you think \$4 is a realistic price for a ticket?    Yes    No
8. Did you purchase something from one of the used vendors?    Yes    No
9. Did you purchase something new from one of the commercial vendors?    Yes    No
10. How much did you spend on new equipment, if any?
  - a. Bought no new equipment.
  - b. Less than \$25
  - c. More than \$25 but less than \$50
  - d. More than \$50 but less than \$100
  - e. More than \$100
11. How much did you spend on used equipment, if any?
  - a. Bought no used equipment
  - b. Less than \$25
  - c. More than \$25 but less than \$50
  - d. More than \$50 but less than \$100
  - e. More than \$100
12. Would you be willing to chair, or serve, on a hamfest committee?    Yes    No

### Food for thought related to the commercial vendor issue.

If 50 of our local hams spent \$50 each at one of the commercial vendors (Amateur Accessories or Burke Electronics), the vendors would have grossed \$2500. Assuming the money was spent evenly between the two, this would be \$1250 for each vendor. If the vendor makes a 25% net profit, that is \$312.50 that our local community spent. Yes, this could be extrapolated out to the full 250 ticket buyers, but I think you get the point.

Additional comments: