

about this one.

I have heard nothing in months except for a few stations within 50 to 75 miles from my location, no sideband from 50.1 up the band and no CW in the window of 50.070 to 50.1. In effect the band is pretty dead these days and I had hoped for some openings.

Fifteen meters has been fair and that is a stretch, a short window exists in the afternoons towards Europe and Africa, in fact we did work one new band country with the latest expeditions to the Ivory Coast and Niger. The band countries are adding up, but much slower than we have wanted them to be due to poor conditions.

Twenty meters has been the workhorse band, at least a twelve hour opening most of the time to some where, normally some Asian stations in the early morning hours and Europe coming in as the morning progresses. Africa is heard in the afternoons again on a short window of about two hours give or take a little.

Forty seems to support some good dx activity in the last DX phone contest just a few weeks ago I worked everything I could hear with no problems. Since I do not work any bands lower than 40 I cannot report on them by actual operation, but have heard there is interest in 80 meter dx and also 160 meters, a band I have only been on twice and that was not from my own station.

So, for those of you wishing for better results with the bands during the declining cycle try those lower bands. Back up about 20 years and I can tell you about 80 meter DX, it is fun, challenging, and gives you some contacts working the Grey Line propagation. I was at the time pursuing 5 Band DxCC and gained 100 countries on 80 meters. Most work was done on SSB in the dx window of 3.780 to 3.800, I had many interesting contacts with numerous stations in Europe, plus Japan, Australia, New Zealand and several stations in the South Pacific, it can be done.

I used only a folded dipole as an antenna and had the apex up 60 feet with the legs on the end of the antenna about thirty feet off the ground. Once I had worked the required 100 countries and confirmed them, I did a little design work and constructed another antenna of the same design for 40 meters. Forty was a very productive band and I more than qualified for the 5 Band DXCC with the aid of 40 meters. Some of the contacts I value are those with Thailand, China, Japan, Pitcarin, Clipperton, and some South Pole contacts as well.

For those of you that are not DXers 40 can provide daytime contacts of about a 1000 mile radius for most of the day, the band does lengthen out in the afternoon, and by 4 PM if you listen close some CW signals from Europe are just making it. They get stronger as the daylight leaves us and night begins. From all this you might think that since the higher bands are dead, what else is there? Give the lower bands a try and you might be pleasantly surprised at the results. All you will have to do is construct a wire antenna, or if you have the space, a forty meter beam will work very well, but few of us have the turning radius for such a monster. Yet, some fellows do and their signals are always large and outstanding!

Ok, go buy some copper wire a 1 to 1 balun for a dipole, or a 4 to 1 balun for a folded dipole and start building, you will not regret your decision. Of course there are some good verticals on the market as well, so what are waiting for a special invite?

As always my friends this is "One Man's Opinion"
Bill, K4LRX



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As always my friends this is One Man's Opinion,
Bill, K4LRX

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Covers @ FirstCovers.com

Friday Night Simplex

146.430

7 PM

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It's spring, meaning it's time
for Indiana radio clubs and
individual hams
to start planning for the Indiana
QSO Party on May 6.

Not only is this the
annual running of our popular (and fun)
INQP, it's also a chance to shake
down your mobile or club's field day setup
by activating some of the more
"rare" Indiana counties. This is a great
opportunity to become "the hunted"
and experience pileups looking to work
YOU !

There's a link to a powerpoint presentation
on the INQP website
(www.hdxcc.org/inqp, click on PUBLICITY
PACKAGE) that could be used as
program material in your club. The website
also holds a lot of other info,
like rules for INQP, operating tips, and links
to special awards, like the
Worked All Indiana Counties award.

Perhaps your club can mount a full-blown
12-hour effort to put your county

on the air and compete for the TOP CLUB
plaque. Your members can participate
as individuals, and then combine their scores
for a club score. You might
also organize a multi-op multi-transmitter
effort, and perhaps shake out the
club gear prior to Field Day. (Check out the
rules and operating categories)

Even if you are not contributing to a club
entry, feel free to operate and
compete for individual awards, including our
attractive plaques and
certificates. Beside operating from home,
you can go mobile, or set up
bigger (and higher) antennas as a rover or
portable.

Whatever your operating preference, please
get on the air Saturday May 7 to
put Indiana (and your county) out there for
others to work.

Once you have made a plan, please let the
INQP reflector (or K9WX
timk9wx@gmail.com) know what counties
and call signs you will activate on
May 6. We'll put your call on the activity
map.

NOTE: If you've operated INQP before,
please be aware that we've changed
the county abbreviations to avoid confusion
with other QSO parties taking
place the same day (meaning, there will be
LOTS of stations to work!).
Check out the website for more info on using
these abbreviations with the
most common logging programs.

Thanks
Mel KJ9C kj9c@arrl.net

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

April 13th Eating Before the Meeting will be 5:30 at Zaxby's, 1021 N Burkhardt Rd.



An alternative to fast food, Zaxby's offers prepared-at-order Chicken Fingers, Traditional or Boneless Wings, Salads, Sandwiches, Appetizers, Milkshakes and a variety of dipping and tossing sauces.

<https://www.zaxbys.com>

Drop by for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. Join the group at 5:30, or whenever you can make it. Check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just bored on your drive in.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting will be April 20th 7:00 pm at the West side EMA training center, (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](https://www.wema.com).



Chris Lantaff KE9YK
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
(ke9yk @ arrl. Net)
H: 812.626.0069 C: 812.453.1972

Tri-State Emergency Net

8:00 p.m. Wednesday nights on 146.79 pl 88.5

If you haven't checked into the Tri-State Emergency Net, please take a few minutes at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings on 146.79 and get updated on what is happening, the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and from time to time good old-fashioned rag chewing.

Net Operator schedule

April	5	N9QVQ
	12	KE9YK
	19	KC9TYA
	26	KB9YWQ
May	3	KC9UVG
	10	N9QVQ
	17	KC9TYA
	24	KE9YK
	31	KB9YWQ

New Bands! FCC Issues Amateur Radio Service Rules for 630 Meters and 2,200 Meters

From the ARRL Letter March 30, 2017

The Amateur Service will officially get two new bands in the near future. The FCC has adopted rules that will allow Amateur Radio access to the 630 and 2,200-meter bands, with minor conditions. A *Report and Order (R&O)* was released on March 29. The new rules become effective 30 days following publication in *The Federal Register*. The *R&O*, which also addresses several non-Amateur Radio issues, allocates the 472-479 kHz band (630 meters) to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis and amends Part 97 to provide for Amateur Service use of that band as well as of the previously allocated 135.7-137.8 kHz band (2,200 meters). The *R&O* also amends Part 80 rules to authorize radio buoy operations in the 1900-2000 kHz band under a ship station license.

"It's a big win for the Amateur community and the ARRL," ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, said. "We are excited by the FCC's action to authorize Amateur Radio access for the first time on the MF and LF spectrum."

The FCC said the Amateur Radio service rules it has adopted for 630 meters and 2,200 meters allow "for co-existence with Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems that use these bands." Utilities have opposed Amateur Radio use of the MF and LF



spectrum, fearing interference to unlicensed Part 15 PLC systems used to manage the power grid. Amateurs operating on 472-479 kHz would be permitted a maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) of 5 W, except in parts of Alaska within 800 kilometers (approximately 496 miles) of Russia, where the maximum would be 1 W EIRP. Amateurs operating in the 135.7-137.8 kHz band could run up to 1 W EIRP.

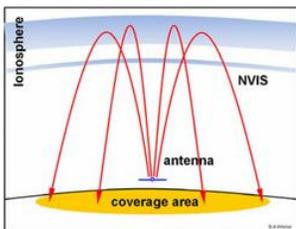
The FCC is requiring a 1-kilometer separation distance between radio amateurs using the two new bands and electric power transmission lines with PLC systems on those bands. Amateur Radio operators will have to notify UTC of station location prior to commencing operations.

The FCC also placed a 60-meter (approximately 197 feet) above-ground-level (AGL) height limit on transmitting antennas used on 630 meters and 2,200 meters. The bands would be available to General class and higher licensees, and permissible modes would include CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image. Automatically controlled stations would be permitted to operate in the bands. More details soon, on the ARRL website.

NVIS Research Paper Available

From the ARRL Letter March 30, 2017

A thorough and fully annotated discussion of Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) is available in the [research paper](#), "Radio Communication via Near Vertical Incidence Skywave Propagation: An Overview," by Ben A. Witvliet, PE5B/5R8DS, and Rosa Ma Alsina-Pagès.



First investigated in the 1920s, NVIS propagation was rediscovered during World War II as "an essential means to establish communications in large

war zones such as the D-Day invasion in Normandy," the paper notes, adding that the US Army subsequently sponsored a lot of NVIS field research, especially between 1966 and 1973. More recently, NVIS has become a popular means to

enable close-in communication on Amateur Radio HF bands between 3 and 10 MHz. NVIS can be used for radio communication in a large area (200-kilometer radius) without any intermediate manmade infrastructure, and it has been found to be especially suited for disaster relief communication, among other applications, according to the paper.

"A comprehensive overview of NVIS research is given, covering propagation, antennas, diversity, modulation, and coding," the *Abstract* explains. "Both the bigger picture and the important details are given, as well as the relation between them." As the paper describes it, in NVIS propagation, electromagnetic waves are sent nearly vertically toward the ionosphere, and, with appropriate frequency selection, these waves are reflected back to Earth.

"The great reflection height of 80 to 350 kilometers results in a large footprint and homogeneous field strength across that footprint," the paper says.

"Due to the steep radiation angles large objects such as mountain slopes or high buildings cannot block the radio path."

As for NVIS antennas, the paper stipulates that important parameters are antenna diagram, polarization, and bandwidth. "As only high elevation angles contribute to NVIS propagation, optimizing the antenna diagram for these elevation angles will increase the effectively transmitted power and improve the signal-to-interference ratio at reception."

AMSAT Reschedules Fox Series Launches

From the ARRL Letter March 30, 2017

[AMSAT](#) has announced that the launches of its Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D CubeSats have been rebooked from a single launch to separate launches. Both satellites initially were set to go into space on the Spaceflight [FORMOSAT-5](#)/Sherpa mission aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 (Sherpa is launched as a rideshare program for small, low-budget satellites). Fox-1Cliff will launch on Spaceflight's SSO-A dedicated

rideshare mission aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 scheduled to launch from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base in late 2017 or early 2018. Fox-1D will ride into orbit on an Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle set to launch late this year.

"These moves will serve to expedite the launch of these two satellites, both of which carry an Amateur Radio U/V FM repeater and an experimental L/V FM repeater," AMSAT said. "The satellites also carry scientific experiments from university partners Penn State, Vanderbilt University ISDE, Virginia Tech, and University of Iowa."

Spaceflight said the recently announced 2017 SpaceX manifest would have a "significant" impact on the FORMOSAT-5 mission. "We learned our launch would occur potentially much later than expected," Spaceflight President Curt Blake, said in a March 2 statement. Spaceflight rebooked its FORMOSAT-5 mission customers and found an alternative launch for each one, he said.

In addition to the launch of Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D, AMSAT is awaiting the launches of RadFxSat and RadFxSat-2. RadFxSat is currently scheduled to launch this August 29 aboard the NASA Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (ELaNa) XIV mission, as a secondary payload with the Joint Polar Satellite System ([JPSS-1](#)) on a Delta II vehicle from Vandenberg Air Force Base. RadFxSat-2 will be launched no sooner than December 2017 by Virgin Galactic on its LauncherOne air launch system from Mojave, California on the ELaNa XX mission. Read [more](#). -- Thanks to AMSAT News Service via Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, and Jerry Buxton, NOJY



insects that help pollinize or crops. Honey bees contribute a large percentage of that function.

We can help do our part by planting some wild flowers or garden flowers. Do you have a vacant spot in the yard that could use some brightening up? Plant a package of wild flowers. They will cheer up your property and the bees will love you too.



It bears repeating:

In every home there are three things that your very life may depend on. A smoke alarm, carbon monoxide detector and a weather radio is at the top of that list.



Discussion Junction

Help save our bees

A recent sharp decline in our world bee population has far reaching consequences. Almost a third of our food depends on

Most receivers have batteries and can also operate from a wall plug. In case of a power failure your receiver continues to work. Just don't forget to put in fresh batteries at least

once a year. If your model has rechargeable batteries, remember they must be replaced every couple of years.

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Dayton Bound?

If you haven't been to Dayton Hamvention you owe it to yourself to go at least once. It is the Mecca of ham radio and quite an adventure.

I haven't been to the new facility yet but was glad to see they finally retired the old arena. Parking was a nightmare. It always irritated us when they turned down the water fountains so it was almost impossible to drink from them, unplugged the cola machines and sold bottled water for \$2 a bottle. (Profits going to the arena, not the ham groups)

At Dayton you will find anything you could ever want in the area of ham radio and then some. Make shopping list because you will certainly forget many items due to the excitement.

If you purchase a radio or anything expensive at the flea market, TRY IT OUT first. All hams are not honest and will sell you junk if they can.

Dayton weather is unpredictable. I have attended when we needed winter coats, umbrellas or sun screen. Be prepared.

There are always many seminars, lectures and special interest groups putting on demonstrations. Plan ahead and work them into your schedule.

I always hit the flea market first. A lot of the bargains go pretty fast in the first morning. Then, again, prices continue to fall during the following days as vendors don't want to lug all that stuff back home.

It goes without saying to protect your cash. A billfold with a chain on it might save you from a lost (or pickpocket) billfold. Be careful who you give your credit card to. Large conventions are very lucrative to credit card fraud. Checks are useless,

leave the checkbook at home. There are always a few ATM machines around however most will only allow a maximum daily amount.

Don't take any large bills unless you plan on purchasing an expensive item. Most vendors will not have change for a \$50 or \$100 and may not even take them. Vendors are aware that conventions are a great place to use counterfeit money.

Always count your change. Short changing is pretty common at large events, mostly accidental but a lot of times intentional.

Beware of the "pay me now and I will ship you the product when I get back to the store", you will never hear from them again. Also the ones asking for money to get home on (lost my billfold, etc.) they hang around every convention and most are locals anyway. If you encounter such a person, direct them to the convention office for help.

Make sure your driver's license is up to date and valid, your insurance and registration is in the vehicle and valid. If you get pulled over for any reason your troubles just increased a whole lot if everything is not in order.

And finally take care of yourself. Stay hydrated, bring sun screen, your daily medications and have emergency contact information in your billfold or purse. A list of your current medications is also a good thing to have. No one plans to get sick or have an accident.

Learn more: <http://www.hamvention.org>

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05/19/2017 | 2017 Dayton Hamvention

Location: Xenia, OH

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.hamvention.org>

06/03/2017 | Princeton, KY Hamfest

Location: Princeton, KY

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Princeton Ham Radio Club

Website: <http://w4kbl.org>

06/03/2017 | Georgia Section Convention
Location: Marietta, GA
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC) & Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club (W4BTI)
Website: <http://atlantahamfest.com>

09/23/2017 | Bloomington IN - Hamfest
Location: Bloomington, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Bloomington Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.BloomingtonRadio.org>

10/07/2017 | Vette City Hamfest
Location: Bowling Green, KY
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club

For a more complete listing visit
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

www.w9qyq.org

This is not a complete list, more for Indiana can be found on the IN ARRL section website.

<http://www.inarrl.org/hamfest.html>

And all the ARRL hamfests can be found on the ARRL website.

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

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As mentioned by our president, a location for Field Day needs to be finalized.

Many choice locations require reservations. In the past when we waited until the last minute we had to settle for less than desirable locations as the good ones were booked early in the year by someone else.

Evansville city parks now require and \$80 dollar a day shelter rental and no overnights. Some shelters are open to the public but if someone reserves them, they have first choice and anyone occupying them has to leave. State parks are not as expensive but not many members want to travel that far.

Let us know your suggestions by the banquet so that we can confirm a location. A site will be chosen at the banquet so that we may act on it right away.

Some suggestions so far are:

Harmonie State Park, or Lincoln State park

FOP camp, Boy Scout shelter, Mark Thienes back yard and pool.

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Your input is important

Sparks is YOUR information source for club activities and Amateur radio information of all sorts. In each issue we ask for submissions from club members. Tell us about your station, projects you have made or are making, anything interesting the club might be interested in.

So far in the last few years we have minimal submissions. Let's make 2017 an even better year for Sparks. Let us hear from you.

A bit of Trivia

We call it RADIO, but why?

The device we call a radio took its name from radio telegraphy. It was commonly referred to as "wireless" up until World War II when the military preference for radio caused that name to catch on to describe the revolutionary receptacle of sound.

Education Classes” or drill/exercises is considered the minimum for active status per year.

“Open classes” are scheduled for 2017 during the months of May and October and are open to the public with completed application form and background check approval. (Actual Dates of classes are posted below.)

FEMA-based Classroom Training:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Introduction to the Incident Command System
- Basic Fire Suppression
- Basic first aid and triage (2 Units)
- Search and Rescue and cribbing
- CERT and Psychology
- CERT and Terrorism

Program Registration and Open CERT Class Training Dates for 2017:

- Each candidate must complete an Application Form and pass a background check. The Application form is included in your packet of information we have passed out to you tonight. If you are interested in taking the May session, please fill out the form and hand it in to a CERT representative at the sign in table and place your name on the May Class Schedule Sheet. If you are considering the October Classes, please indicate that you prefer October, again at the sign in table. CERT representatives will be available to help you with the entire process.

• CLASS SCHEDULES:

The application form must be completed first. We do have a maximum amount of candidates we can take for each class. Your application may be turned in to us tonight if you are considering May. We will follow up with those preferring October classes and you may fill out your application after we contact you.

Classroom training is held at the CERT Training Center located at 1440 Harmony Way in Evansville. FEMA requires a total of 21 hours of instruction to become a CERT. Each set of classes is arranged in 3 hour increments from 6:00pm to 9:00pm each

Tuesday and Thursday night for 3 weeks with a Saturday morning exercise & graduation. You will also be provided with emergency equipment to keep and use as needed.

MAY TRAINING CLASS

- DATES - Tuesday, May 9 and Thursday, May 11
- Tuesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 18
- Tuesday, May 23 and Thursday, May 25
- Saturday, June 3 – 8:00am – 11:00am – Final Exercise and Graduation

OCTOBER TRAINING CLASS

- DATES - Tuesday, Oct 10 and Thursday, Oct 12
- Tuesday, Oct 17 and Thursday, Oct 19
- Tuesday, Oct 24 and Thursday, Oct 26
- Saturday, Oct 28 – 8:00am – 11:00am – Final Exercise and Graduation

Supplemental Training

Supplemental training is highly recommended. Your Instructors will explain this more in depth; with most of the courses taken online. Once completed, a FEMA certificate will be emailed to you. CERT will need a copy to add to your folder.

NIMS (National Incident Management System) Online Training:

- IS-100.a Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)
- IS-200.a ICS for Single Resources
- IS-700.a National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction
- IS-800.b National Response Framework, An Introduction
- Additional damage assessment

- *Taking care of yourself, your family and your neighborhood*
- Residential / Neighborhood check
- Medical intervention (triage or treatment)
- Sandbagging during flooding situations
- Staffing Emergency Operating Center
- Community relations / Distribution of emergency information to the public

Types of emergencies/disasters to which the CERTs have responded:

- Floods
- Tornados
- Severe Weathers
- Severe Winter Storms
- Earthquakes

Non-Emergency Functions

Non-emergency functions performed by CERT members:

- Conduct and support emergency preparedness efforts and projects, including sharing information with the public about protective actions and encouraging them to practice
- Support for public safety at community events

Additional CERT Program Information:

www.FEMA.gov/community emergency-response-teams

[Citizen Corps Home](#) | [FEMA.gov](#) | [DHS.gov](#) | [Ready.gov](#) | [Serve.gov](#) | [DisasterHelp.gov](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Downloads Plug-Ins](#) | [No FEAR Act Data](#) | [Freedom of Information Act](#)

“Organizational classes” are also scheduled as needed for groups:

- Specific neighborhood groups- Neighborhood Associations – i.e., United Neighborhoods of Evansville
- Businesses – i.e., all Ford Center personnel; Tropicana Security
- Faith-based organizations – i.e., 1 on 1 Church, Simpson United Methodist Church
- All High Schools; Trade & Technical Schools; and nearby Universities – i.e., USI Security & Harrison High School faculty
- Group classes may be scheduled throughout the year depending on Instructor availability.

Contact Information:

Feel free to contact the Emergency Management Office with any questions or concerns at 812-421-6204 or you may contact directly to:

Robert Weldon, CERT Instructor and Program Manager by phone or text at 812-430-4885;

or by email to bweldon57@gmail.com.

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CERT in Action – Emergencies – “Your personal safety is considered above all else”

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Well, phooey the lights went out !



How many times have you said that (or worse) when your home lost electricity?

The Evansville area is lucky in that our local power company is well equipped to restore power rapidly after a storm takes down part of the electrical grid. But what happens if the power is off for an extended period of time? Are you prepared?

In an era where 15% of adult males cannot even change a light bulb, using a generator during blackout times can be a real challenge. It can be everything to an expensive mistake to a fatal electrocution.

Many people just wait until the power goes out to rush to the store to buy a generator. A common mind set is that you take it home, make a jumper to plug it into a home outlet and power the house. **This is where you can set your house on fire, burn up the new generator when the power is restored and even cause someone else not even in your home to get electrocuted.**

One size does not fit all. There are many sizes and types of generators available. Choosing the right one for your home use takes a little thought and research.

Plan ahead. Do your homework. Seek assistance from an electrician (not your know it all brother in law). Your local Emergency Management Office can offer advice on what to do when the lights go out. Your local Red Cross chapter can also offer good advice.

Like my old physics professor (Dr. Dufford –rest his soul) once said...”A smart man does not know all the answers, he just knows where to find the answers”.

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TARS Attendance Raffle

The TARS board has decided to discontinue the attendance raffle that we have been doing for several years. **BUT GOOD NEWS**, we will now be having door prizes for random meetings.

Your chance to get a door prize will start with the March general meeting where you will have a chance for a dual band handheld. *The only way to have a chance to win is be present at the end of the meeting.* See you March 9th at 7:00 pm.

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Tri-State Emergency Net

8:00 p.m. Wednesday nights on 146.79 pl 88.5

If you haven't checked into the **Tri-State Emergency Net**, please take a few minutes at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday evenings on 146.79 and get updated on what is happening, the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and from time to time good old-fashioned rag chewing.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
(ke9yk @ arrl. Net) 626-0069

We now have internet access at WEMA and Len N9QVQ will be updating the packet node to get internet access back online as soon as we have a network address assigned. If you have packet capability connect to N9QVQ-1 on 145.010 @1200 or 440.950 @9600.

More information can be found on the [Paducah NWS page](#).

<http://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>

If you are interested in being a net control op contact Chris (ke9yk @ arrl. Net).

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Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting will be March 16th 7:00 pm at the West side EMA training center, (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](#).



Chris Lantaff KE9YK
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
(ke9yk @ arrl. Net)
H: 812.626.0069 C: 812.453.1972

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Tri-State Emergency Net

A big thank you to Don KB9YWQ for running several SKYWARN nets and for everyone who checked in during the latest weather events. Remember to tune into the 146.79 repeater during severe weather to make your SKYWARN reports and follow what is happening with the weather.



If you are not SKYWARN trained we will have training opportunities available in the spring. Two local classes have been already scheduled:
Feb 8, 6:00 pm Oakland City
Feb 16, 5:00 pm Owensboro
Mar 14, 6:00 pm Evansville, Red Cross
Mar 28, 6:30 pm NWS Webinar

Elite Spotter Workshop

Apr 4, 5:00 pm Owensboro
Apr 6, 6:00 pm Evansville, Red Cross

All classes now require registration, are free of charge, open to everyone and last 2 to 2.5 hours. For details about the classes and to register visit www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining

Questions? Email Ricky.Shanklin@noaa.gov or Christine.Wielgos@noaa.gov

Or for those wishing to take some basic spotter classes online, or take refresher courses on the material presented by the NWS, MetEd offers an alternate way to achieve your training.

[Role of Skywarn Spotter](#)

[Skywarn Spotter Convective Basics](#)

Once you have completed this training, you may contact ricky.shanklin@noaa.gov or christine.wielgos@noaa.gov for instructions on making spotter reports.

More information can be found on the [Paducah NWS page](#).

<http://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>

If you are interested in being a net control op contact Chris (ke9yk @ arrl. Net).

Net operators WANTED

If you look at back issues of Sparks you will see this column in every issue. Our net operators do a great job of managing the Wednesday night net and weather nets when required.

If you look at the list of net control operators you notice that the list doesn't change much from month to month. Despite repeated requests for assistance, it falls on deaf ears. "Let somebody else do it" is not a good way to run a club.

Nets take only a few minutes out of your week. They also provide valuable experience in running nets and getting to know club members.

If our hams are ever called upon to assist in a community project or disaster we will need more than one or two net control operators. Many say they would help out in a time of need, but when called upon would have to say "sure I can help, but show me exactly what to do, how to do it and stay with me while I do it".

