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One man's opinion

The more modern ham these days does not know how lucky he, or she is in terms of radios and operating on the ham bands. I have marveled at the technological advancements in the latest and greatest equipment. Let me tell you how lucky you are and you were not on the air way back in the mid 50's!

Let's take a nostalgic look at ham radio in the era where I was first a beginner and see how we operated way back then, it indeed was a challenge. Firstly, all gear had vacuum tubes there were no solid state radios on the market, this was the best technology we could offer in those days. There were no transceivers, the average ham station put most of the hard earned money into a good receiver, there was an old adage then, "If you cannot hear them, you cannot work them" good advice in those days.

Most transmitters were Heathkits, or home brewed rigs, but the receiver had to be the best you could afford. I for one could not afford Collins receivers at that time, we are speaking of the 75A series. They were very much out of our reach.

The biggest problems with vacuum tubes were they needed to be warmed up before usage, in transmitters and receivers a normal warm up time was fifteen minutes prior to a contact. The main reason was to stabilize the gear, your receiver would drift and the VFO in your transmitter would drift. Often, a contact of Amplitude Modulation would be 5 kHz or more apart by the ending of the qso.

There were three modes in those days for most hams, Amplitude Modulation, CW, plus for the bravest souls RTTY. I use the term bravest at this time, the printers for RTTY in those days were huge monsters standing about four feet tall, they clanged and produced noises of mechanical machinery. This also brought about a lot of XYL objections, once these monsters started going the very foundation of the house shook, of course they required paper, ribbons and constant adjustments.

Transmitters required tuning of all stages,

Oscillator, buffer, grid drive, final amplifier, changing bands required a complete retune, that was before you placed the final amplifier on the air. Let us not forget the noise of many AM stations on the ham bands at once, this produced an ear splitting tone cause by two stations not exactly on the same frequency. This was known as heterodyne there were variations of this spelling, but you get the picture, pure noise. During contests it was almost unbearable, but yet we pursued our contact.

Receivers in those days lacked the selectivity we have today, variable bandwidth, beat cancelers, DNR, equalizers, and stability. I for one purchased two of the many thousands of Command receivers available for a very small sum. You could at one time buy all you wanted of these surplus receivers from WW2 for \$5.00. Many thousands of these units wound up in the bottom of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in planes that were shot down in combat.

Those old receivers were hot on sensitivity, but pretty bad on selectivity, often while trying to copy a cw station you would have two, maybe three signals at once, you just had to concentrate on the one you wanted. Tube type receivers did not have the dynamic range of todays radios, if you were close to a local station your receiver would block and take several seconds to recover. We no longer have this problem, you can be within 3 kHz of a strong local and not know he is there. Let us not forget CW ops used mechanical bug keys, we had no computerized CW, in fact no computers at all. Logging was done via a paper log, nothing else was available and every op was required to keep a log of activity.

Those nostalgic days are gone, I do feel we have progressed greatly, ops licensed in the last 15 years have a wide choice of modes, even satellites and of course they did not exist. We have two meter repeaters using digital FM, back in the mid 50's two meters was not used much. Those who did used converted taxi cab radios and all voice was AM, there were no repeaters, D star, or multiple links.

Six meters was avoided by most hams, if you had a channel two, or three in your area, well you were asking for trouble if you dared operate on six.

Today, we do not have to worry about that at all, nor do we have to worry about tv sets that had 21 MHZ intermediate Frequency coils.

Yes, hamming is much better now, technology has improved greatly, we are still improving our gear and who knows what we will have in another decade?

Things just keep getting better and better!

As always my friends this is "One Man's Opinion"
Bill, K4LRX 05/17



© Ron Leishman * www.ClipartOf.com/442408

Bill raises a good point about modern ham radio equipment. The stuff we have now is far superior and more complex than their early counterparts.

How many of you remember:

Is it dip the grid and peak the plate, or dip the plate and peak the grid???? A set of valuable tubes depend on your answer.

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Covers @ FirstCovers.com

Friday Night Simplex

146.430

7 PM

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Survey results:

The spring stormy weather is upon us once again. The age old question is always "which direction do I point my beam antenna; into the wind or other direction?"

I decided to take a survey among the people who would definitely have an answer. Here are the results so far:

MOSLEY ELECTRONICS ANTENNAS:

"Good Morning. There are different schools of thought regarding this matter. I cannot advise you on what you should do for your installation, but Mosley turns its antennas with the longest element into the wind when we know strong winds are forecasted.

The thinking behind this is this would expose the tower to the least amount of wind capture area from the beam. The longest element would shield the other elements in theory, and the boom would not be a factor.

Regards, Gary

CUSHCRAFT ANTENNAS:

"I've seen it both ways also. It would depend on the actual antenna, as to how unbalanced it would be at 70 mph. You would have to run a calculation on it.

The best is an article I read, which modified the antenna for equal area no matter which way it was pointed. You would move the mast mount from the gravity balance point, to the center of wind area, which is usually toward the reflector. Since the gravity center moves, he put a counterweight inside the front

of the boom. I think it was in Communications Quarterly.

Tom Stone AA5MT”

CUSHCRAFT ANTENNAS:

“I do not have an opinion, because I have heard both sides of this discussion. I have not done my homework math, so I cannot verify either point. I would recommend asking this question on one of the antenna forums, such as eham.net or qrz.net.

If you can find it, there was an article in Communications Quarterly. In it, the author discussed the merits of rearranging the antenna for equal areas into the wind. This caught my interest even back then, because I had the same questions that you do. Since the reflector has more area than the directors in most cases, the wind force is applied more to it. The wind area for all of the elements and the boom have to be calculated in a table for reference. The mast mounting point is moved toward the center of the wind area, which is calculated for end on and broadside. By moving the mast mount point, the gravity balance is upset. Most antennas are mounted at the gravity center. To offset the gravity center shift, the author installed a counter weight inside the front boom, to balance the new

arrangement.

I'm sorry that I don't know the date or the author's name. This is all that I remember from the article. It was probably in the early '90's.

73

Tom Stone AA5MT”

AARL “THE DOCTOR IS IN”

“I also have heard different arguments, and guess it may come down to what is most likely to break. I point my elements into the wind, I think opposite to what you do. My rationale is that they are thinner than the boom, and more likely to deflect, but the boom has more effective area and may put more stress on the rotator and mast. Some folks go in the middle.

My beam usually has the elements pointed toward the road to minimize the visual impact. That also is the prevailing wind direction.

GL & 73, Joel

Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR

Contributing Editor, QST

ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio

Perdue University Amateur Radio Club Did not respond (I wanted an engineer's perspective)

As you can see, there is no agreement among the experts. My suggestion is to follow the recommendations of your particular antenna manufacturer.

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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.

Net Operator schedule

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Net Operator schedule

May	3	KC9UVG
	10	N9QVQ
	17	KC9TYA
	24	KE9YK
	31	KB9YWQ
June	7	KC9UVG
	14	N9QVQ
	21	KE9YK
	28	KC9TYA
July	5	KB9YWQ
	12	KC9UVG
	19	N9QVQ
	26	KC9TYA

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.

Discussion Junction

Is the art of communication dead? I read a few articles recently about rude, impolite, mean and downright illegal conversations on HF. I remember as a new ham I overheard three hams talking on 40 meters.

Remembering what I was taught, I waited for one of them to quit talking and put my call sign in before the other picked up the conversation. One of them told me to go ahead. I introduced myself as a new ham. One of them ask who gave me permission to talk on this frequency. I apologized and signed off. Had I known then what I know now I might have said something just as rude right back to them.

The main idea is to always present a positive attitude to new hams. We don't want to discourage them before they even get started. Sure there are A..holes on the air, but not all hams are like that. Hiding behind a microphone does not allow you to act like a fool. Play nice and others will return the favor. If you do hear inappropriate stuff, simply ignore them and move on. Remember, a clown needs an audience, don't be his.

Bill Hilyerd (K4LRX) said it best; There are no impolite operators on CW, it takes too long to spell out cuss words.

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May Birthdays

Kullen Cook	KD9GSY	14th
Danielle Day	KC9YIL	26th
Zac Lantaff	KD9COQ	15th
Jimmy Mathias	KJ4DVR	15th
Rick Neukam	KD9MY	19th
Don Viviano	KB9CYH	17th

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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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Article Links Amateur Radio Growth to Emergency Communications

An April 11 [article](#), "Emergency Communications Driving Increase in Amateur Radio Operators," in *Emergency Management* magazine links the growth in Amateur Radio numbers to interest in emergency communications.

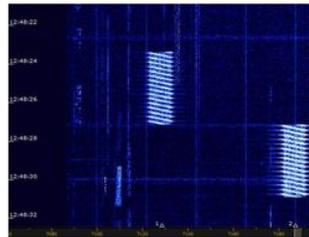
"There has been a tremendous amount of interest in emergency preparedness since 9/11 and Katrina, and this is true for the Amateur Radio community as well," ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, told the publication.

"Emergency communications is a gateway into Amateur Radio, and many join our ranks through an interest in being better prepared themselves and as a way to serve their community."

The article cites numbers from ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who notes that 2016 was the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses exceeded 30,000.

The article also cites ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jack Ciaccia, WM0G, who agreed with the premise that the uptick in new licenses is due to Amateur Radio's emergency capabilities.

"Interest really peaks after a large-scale event where ham radio has been utilized," Ciaccia said. "When regular phone service fails, Amateur Radio operators fill the communications gap with their independent transceivers and battery power backups," said the article, which also discusses the ARES program. -- *ARRL News*



The Chinese "Foghorn" jumps between 7,128 and 7,187 kHz. [Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, image]

Russian "Buzzer" Disappears, Chinese "Foghorn" Returns:

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) Monitoring System ([IARUMS](#)) [March newsletter](#) reports that the Russian "buzzer" on 6,998.0 kHz has

disappeared. For a long time the system interfered with the lower edge of the 40-meter band. In addition, a Russian F1B transmission on 7,193 kHz -- believed to be emanating from Kaliningrad -- has ceased. IARUMS credits German telecoms authorities for submitting complaints and the Russian military. The IARUMS March newsletter further reports that a Chinese over-the-horizon (OTH) burst system radar "foghorn" signal is being heard again on both 40 meters (jumping between 7,128 and 7,187 kHz) and on 20 meters (14,218 kHz). The signals are 10 kHz wide with burst durations of 3.8 and 7.6 seconds. A "numbers" station said to be from the Ukraine SZRU intelligence agency was reported on March 30 on AM (female voice) on 14,212 kHz --*ARRL Letter*

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Indiana QSO event:

A group of brave club members set up at the F.O.P. camp in the chilly morning. The bands did not cooperate very well but many contacts were made. The old faithful Butternut antenna was used and I saw a new NVIS antenna set up. We look forward to a report on how well it worked.

There was plenty to eat and everyone had a great time. We will post the results in the next issue.

ISS Packet System Returns to VHF

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) packet digipeater system is again operating on VHF -- 145.825 MHz. The failure of an Ericsson handheld VHF transceiver on board the

ISS last fall had caused ARISS to shift packet operation to 70 centimeters. In February, a cargo resupply mission delivered a new Ericsson 2-meter handheld to replace the one that had failed, which



had been used in the *Columbus* module for school group contacts and for Amateur Radio packet. While the VHF transceiver was offline, ARISS shifted school contacts from NAISS to the Kenwood TM-D710 transceiver in the Russian *Service Module*. NASA ISS Ham Project Coordinator Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said the VHF capability now back in *Columbus* can be used in conjunction with passes involving the HamTV digital amateur television (DATV) system, which operates on 2.4 GHz.

ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said recently that ARISS continues to make progress on the development of the new interoperable radio system on the ISS "that we hope to use to replace our aging radio infrastructure in the *Columbus* module and the *Service* module."

Packets digipeated in a valid APRS format via the ISS system and picked up by an internet gateway station are documented on the "[Amateur Radio Stations heard via ISS](#)" page. -- *Thanks to Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, ISS Ham Project Coordinator*

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Armed Forces Day Crossband Communications Test Set for Saturday, May 13

US Army, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard stations will participate in the annual [Armed Forces Day Crossband Communications Test](#) on Saturday, May 13. This annual HF communication

interoperability event, sponsored by the Department of Defense since 1934, challenges Amateur Radio operators to contact military stations across the US.

The event marks the 66th annual Armed Forces Day (AFD), officially on May 20. The AFD Crossband Military-Amateur Radio event takes place a week earlier in order to avoid schedule conflicts with those attending Hamvention.



Radio amateurs will transmit on Amateur Radio frequencies and listen on military frequencies, while military stations will transmit on military frequencies and listen on Amateur Radio frequencies. The annual event tests two-way communication between radio amateurs and military stations (authorized

under §97.111 of the Amateur Service rules). It features traditional military-to-amateur crossband SSB voice, CW, practice using legacy interoperability waveforms, and the opportunity for participating hams to utilize more modern military modes, such as MIL-STD Serial PSK and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). Military stations and Amateur Radio stations are authorized to communicate directly on certain 60-meter interoperability channels -- 5,330.5, 5346.5, and 5,371.5 kHz.

Select stations will transmit the Armed Forces Day message using Military Standard mode M188-110A. Amateur Radio operators may download [software](#) to receive the broadcast.

Shortwave listeners are welcome to participate. [Complete details](#), including stations, times, and operating modes are on the US Army MARS website. Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

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.w9qyg.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>



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 use them all the time, but where did the word MICROPHONE come from?

The term itself was coined about 1827 by the English inventor, Sir Charles Wheatstone, who in the 1820s experimented with the mechanical transmission of sound through solid rods, among other media. Wheatstone and others referred to a much older concept of mechanically conveying sounds, using the term "telephone," and Wheatstone used the term "microphone" to name an instrument, consisting of two thin rods, to augment faint sounds and convey the vibrations to the ears. Wheatstone's use of "micro" in the name was a reference to the thinness of the rods. This early experimentation was only conceptually related to microphones using carbon powder or other media for converting sound vibration to electrical current, which were first patented in the 1870s.

Source: *Quora* web page



Interested in helping our community?

All ARES/RACES members and any Amateur interested in emergency communications are encouraged to participate

For ARES/RACES announcements you can join the Emergency Comms yahoo group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/emergency_comms/join

Contact Chris KE9YK or John WB9EFH for more information on how you can help out.

Chris KE9YK

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May 9 - All Dates for New CERT Classes begin in May
Tuesday, May 9th; 11th; 16th; 18th; 23rd; 25th; and Saturday, June 3rd, 8am with final exercise and graduation.
{This week lapse allows for Memorial Day weekend when many of you may be traveling.}

For more information contact:
Bob Weldon, CERT Program Manager 812-430-4885

CERT MISSION: "TO DO THE GREATEST GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER"

**CERT – Community Emergency Response Team –
An Element of Indiana Department of Homeland Security**

Welcome to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) information page. Here you can find an explanation of the Program itself; as well as registration requirements and class schedules.

CERT IS NEIGHBORHOOD-ORIENTED

Following a disaster in your neighborhood, you will be able to use the CERT training provided; ensuring you and your family are safe and secure and then using your training to help your neighborhood. No one in CERT self-deploys to another area without a specific call out from the Director of Emergency Management. When

professional first responders arrive on site; you will know to give them all documentation and possible search and rescue information you may have accrued as you worked your neighborhood. At that point, you may step out of the situation or ask if you can assist the professionals in any way.

Sponsorship: The CERT Program is overseen by Citizen Corps of Evansville and EMA Advisory Board and is sponsored locally by the Evansville/Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency (EMA); Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). All classes and equipment are provided for you free of charge and there are no dues.

Training: Local CERT Programs offer training to the public and organizations and all CERT Instructors are FEMA certified. CERT Instructors will emphasize disaster preparedness and planning for hazards that may impact your family and your neighborhood and will focus their training on basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. To continue as an active CERT, a requirement of at least 6 hours of "Continual 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](#)

“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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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.*

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Eat'n Before the Meet'n

May will not have Eat'n Before the Meet'n as the club picnic and INQP on May 6th will be the meeting for the month. Look for more information in this edition of SPARKS.

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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

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packet capability connect to N9QVQ-1 on 145.010 @1200 or 440.950 @9600.

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 May 18th 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

*** ***** *** **

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.



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".

It comes down to the Boy Scout Motto; BE PREPARED.

Come on and give a hand. You might find it is fun.

If you are interested in being a control operator contact Chris KE9YK@arrl.net 626-0069. Next time there is a weather event check in on the TARS 146.79 repeater and see what is going on.

Many thanks to our award winning Net Control operators.



You provide a valuable service to the club and the community. We often fail to thank you enough for your service. Keep up the good work.

President [Chris Matthews N9JCA](#) 812.205.6490

Vice President [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#) 812.858.2968

Secretary [Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) 812.589.5235

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[Bob Pointer N9XAW](#) 812.425.2118 (2016-17)

[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](#) 812.963.6455 (2016-17)

[Dave Julian WB9YIG](#) 812.760.5687 (2017)

[Raymond Edge W9KHP](#) (2017-18)

[Don Land KB9YWQ](#) (2017-18)

[Max Wilkinson KD9ABT](#) (2017-18)

TARS is an **ARRL** affiliated club

ARRL [Indiana Section](#)

Section Manager: [Brent Walls, N9BA](#)

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