



# Spark Gap

Vol. 38, Issue 3, March 2021 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-eight years*

**The Club meeting is this Saturday (3/20) at 8 am.**

*For those who feel comfortable meeting in person, our March and April MARC monthly meetings will be held at New Hope Church, located at **5307 W Fairview Rd Greenwood IN 46142** - on Fairview just west of Morgantown road. Testing will also take place at New Hope Church unless otherwise specified by the VEC. Masks will be required.*

We will meet in the Activity Center located through the lower level doors (northwest corner of the building, by the flagpole), left then right, across from the gym. Testing will occur in a room across and down the hall.



The meeting will also be carried on the Club's 2M repeater as we have in the past. Due to difficulty hitting the repeater directly from this location, we will cross-band repeat using our own HT radios on UHF to my vehicle at the church to relay our HT signals to the MARC 2M VHF repeater. This has been successfully tested from 1-5 watts HT output. If you plan to attend in person, **please bring an HT programmed for the Simplex frequency 445.875 MHz (no PL tone)** to use when you speak at the meeting, so repeater only listeners can hear. The backup frequency will be 445.825 MHz (no PL tone). These are cross-band repeat frequencies recommended by the Indiana Repeater Council.

Due to COVID-19, no coffee or donuts will be provided. ? sorry.

See you Saturday.

73,

Tim

WC9G

President



## ***Birthdays for March***

*N9LC - SteveBrown*  
*KC9VGQ - ChrisMazzarella*  
*W9NMM - NoelMortier*  
*KC9WLR - MichaelRose*  
*KB9LOT - DavidDaily*

## **Last Man Standing (TV Show) Special Event Station**

The Last Man Standing Amateur Radio Club is joining with a team of seasoned special-event operators around the United States to present a multi-band, multi-mode special event celebrating the prime-time network TV show for its positive and accurate portrayal of amateur radio. The event will start at 00:00 UTC on 24th March 2021 and end at 23:59 UTC on 30th March 2021, the last day of shooting for the show, which is concluding its long, successful run.

During its nine TV seasons, the Last Man Standing ARC operated as KA6LMS from real radios on the set during production breaks, making thousands of contacts with the show's amateur radio fans.

DMR operation and DSTAR on REF012A will be courtesy of the Los Angeles based PAPA Repeater system. DSTAR on REF030B will be courtesy of Georgia DSTAR.

The intent is to operate on as many bands and modes as possible, including SSB, CW, and several digital modes. Satellite and repeater operation is also encouraged.

A number of Bonus Stations with special 1-by-1 call signs and KA6LMS /(Call Area) guest operators will be positioned around the country to increase access to the event. When the actual "on-set" radios are in operation, the Bonus Stations may act as relays to assist in contacting KA6LMS.

Participating stations may download a QSL certificate. A special, "Clean Sweep" certificate will be available for those who qualify.

KA6LMS and a number of affiliated stations will live stream their operations. At times, the AmateurLogic.TV team will pick up video feeds from active stations to provide commentary and context.

..... *Vienna Wireless Society March 2021*

## North Carolina Radio Amateurs Adapt Tailgating Hamfest to the COVID-19 Pandemic

With many in-person hamfests canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some radio amateurs in Raleigh, North Carolina, have come up with a way to adapt with a tailgate hamfest in an unused shopping center parking area. The event grew out of the so-called Ham Radio Taco Thursdays, begun many years ago by ARRL Life Member Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ.



Allan Pitegoff – AB4OZ

Pitegoff had to put his event on hold when the pandemic erupted. It was suggested that hams could gather and socialize at a safe distance by having a Taco Thursday with the taco truck outside in an adjacent empty parking lot. That event was a success, with participants remaining at their vehicles and bringing their own chairs. That success inspired holding a tailgate hamfest in the same spot, and it's now turned into a monthly event, called the AB4OZ Hamfest.

Pitegoff said Taco Thursday started collecting more people -- up to 15 or so -- and when Taco Bell closed due to the pandemic, the event moved to a Thursday on-the-air net, with one requirement -- that participants could not talk about COVID-19.

The tailgate hamfest was established at the new location and held once a month on Saturday at 10 AM.

"I think this is a great, uplifting, and positive experience for all of us hams to get out and socialize," participant Charles Murray, KI4DCR, said. "We might not be able to have a big hamfest, but these micro tailgate hamfests might be the future for a good while. I've met a lot of good people. There's a lot of cool stuff out here. The weather's great, you know, and there's plenty of space for everybody to be socially distanced. I think it's fantastic."

-- Thanks to Martin Brossman, KI4CFS

..... ARRL NEWS March 2021

# The KB9JMU Port-A-Shack

by James Adams, KB9JMU

Although I've been hunting and chasing IOTA, SOTA and POTA contacts for some time, I wanted to become an activator working in the field, specifically, for the Parks On The Air program. I decided to make a winter project of organizing a portable station that would be easy to transport, set up and operate in the field.

My Shack-In-The-Box currently consists of a Yaesu FT-891, 100 watt HF+6m radio, into a MFJ-929 auto tuner which feeds a mag-mount hamstick on the top of my SUV. I have 80m, 40m and 10m hamsticks.

The gear is mounted on a 19"x13" piece of 1/2" plywood with rubber feet and fits into a briefcase-size case that I already had on hand. The entire board can come out and sit on a table or a car seat, but I find it works well just propped-up at an angle on the front lip of the case.

Power is supplied by a Duracell 35ah AGM SLA battery, connected thru Powerpole connectors.

I have just five things to throw into the car when I want to hit the road: the battery, the case, a PVC tube containing the hamsticks, a 24"x48" folding table from Menards and a small tool bag with the mag-mount, extra coax, spare fuses, my Kenwood HS-5 headphones and other plugs, adapters and what-nots.

Everything got tested on March 3, 2021, as I successfully activated Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area in Johnson County, POTA K-4183.

I'm sure my GoBox Port-A-Shack station will continue to evolve after each field use. I'm keeping a paper log for now, but will probably integrate a laptop computer. Eventually, I'd like to have a free-standing antenna, perhaps a Buddipole or other similar dipole arrangement. I'm also looking at the need for providing a ground connection.

Thanks to everyone who has answered questions and offered advice over the past few months. Learning and growing, that's what makes it fun!



Go Box set up



POTA Activation



Ready to Go



# HAM WORD SEARCH!

There are 38 common Ham words hidden in the puzzle below. Can you find them all?

FTISYARECEIVERAEOPHUPCAXD  
CRAEAGELSQUIFODRACODAEVOS  
CANRETTIMSNARTIOTOKICPARE  
ANROFRANSLYKNASAVREHKSUBN  
LSETVNP OSCARUTPEOIPTEERFO  
MCAALIBYEAMINOEWACITRHUH  
AEMRAMCQUREATRTRNRNIAMIAQP  
MITECEOEQDNUFEHGNEMIARMSD  
AVENANTPTEAQNXENIAOMIPPIA  
TELEGRAPHKEYELAWNECILESGE  
ERAGIRAFFECLLETMOIDARBCINH  
UECYARERONETTEDITAOBODNAH  
ROZCTEEPEKHAMSHACKLTXEGLA  
RTANRTPGBEHCTAPENOHPISKISN  
AEMESAROMEQUEDAROEESNESLD  
DKEGSESAELURSTEMWDREAYLRY  
ICNRMPHANDHELDUNITINLALMT  
OAWEWEREADDRAOBTIUCRICAPA  
APPMORSECODEKBIUWAESNECIL  
HAOEQEHTUOSRCOSQOXRLAOCRK  
COMPUTERCMOCNNOSSOLIDCOPY

Amateur  
Amateur Radio  
Antenna  
Auto Patch  
Callsign  
CB Radio  
Circuit Board  
Computer  
DX  
DXpedition  
Emergency Generator  
Emergency Network  
FCC

Ham  
Ham Shack  
Hand Held Unit  
Handy Talky  
Headphones  
Key  
License  
Morse Code  
Novice  
Oscar  
Packet  
Packet Mail Box  
Phone Patch

Q Signals  
QSL Card  
QSO  
Receiver  
Repeater  
Rig  
Rotator  
Solid Copy  
Telegraph  
Telegraph Key  
Transceiver  
Transmitter

## MEET N9EJR, your new Public Information Officer!

I'm Jim Williams, N9EJR, a ham since 1970, a Franklin resident since 1983, and one of the original MARC members who met at the old Franklin House in 1984 or so. I decided to offer my services as PIO when Tim made the request a while back. I've always enjoyed interacting with members of the media and local leaders to discuss matters of mutual interest, and I would like to contribute to raising MARC's profile to more prominence with potential partners. MARC has been a "well-kept secret" in the community for a while, and I'd like to contribute to ending the secrecy! Of course, I can't do this all by myself, so I'd like to ask each MARC member the following questions:

1. What are you doing with ham radio that might interest people? Are you willing to share that activity?
2. Do you know anyone with whom we could partner to mutual benefit? Members of the media? Educators? Venue owners? Parole officers or other government officials? Anyone else I ought to contact?
3. What do you consider to be necessary if we want to raise awareness of MARC specifically and ham radio in general?
4. What else do I need to know?

Your thoughtful answers to these questions will help me to perform my duties as your PIO. Please feel free to email me at [jwilliams@franklincollege.edu](mailto:jwilliams@franklincollege.edu) <mailto:[jwilliams@franklincollege.edu](mailto:jwilliams@franklincollege.edu)> or call me at 317-501-8668.

### From the Treasurer..... Club Dues

- 1) Pay dues through PayPal. Go to the website for the link.
- 2) Sign up for Amazon Smile . Go to the website for directions. Please pass along to friends and family. Amazon sends us a check.
- 3) Sign up for Kroger. Go to the website for directions. Please pass along to friends and family. Kroger sends us a check.

Thanks ..... Chris, KC9VGQ



## 2021 NWS Online Spotter training. Signup today.

There will no in-person Skywarn spotter training courses in 2021.

Below are the dates, times, and registration links for each training opportunity. People only need to attend 1 of these sessions, but they must make sure they register using the unique URL for the date they wish to attend. These information and registration links are also available on our spotter training website at:

Indianapolis  <https://www.weather.gov/ind/Spotter>  
Paducah/Southern  <https://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>  
Louisville/Southern  <https://www.weather.gov/lmk/skywarn>  
Northern Indiana  [https://www.weather.gov/iwx/Spotter\\_Event\\_List](https://www.weather.gov/iwx/Spotter_Event_List)  
Courtesy NWS - Indianapolis

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ARRL Indiana Section  
Section Manager: Jimmy L Merry Jr, KC9RPX  
[kc9rpx@arrl.org](mailto:kc9rpx@arrl.org)

### **FOR SALE ((MUST SELL))**

Jack W8ISH 317-997-5919

MFJ Versa Tuner II \$50.00

2-meter Cushcraft A144-10T 11-element  
Horizontal Yagi Antenna Asking \$50.00

2-Meter 5-element Yagi beam Asking \$30.00

11-Element Cushcraft A449-11s 70cm FM Yagi Antenna  
Asking \$45.00

Alpha Delta DX-CC 82 ft Long "No Trap" shortened Dipole  
For 80-40-20-15-10 Meters Asking \$40.00

Kenwood 520 HF radio Asking \$125.00  
A-99 Solarcon 11 Meter or 10 meter base antenna \$15.00

Various lengths of Coax

## 2021 Indiana ARRL Hamfest Schedule

April 3

Columbus Hamfest - Canceled

July 9 & 10

Indianapolis Hamfest

2021 - ARRL – Indiana Section Convention

Marion County Fairgrounds – 7300 E Troy Ave – Indianapolis

<http://indyhamfest.com>

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July 10

Auburn Hamfest

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum - 1600 S. Wayne Street – Auburn

<http://W9OU.ORG>

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August 7

Elkhart Hamfest Northern Indiana Event Center - 21565 Executive Parkway

- Elkhart

<http://elkharteasthamfest>

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August 14

Hendricks County Tailgate Fest

Avon United Methodist Church - 6850 E. Highway 36 Avon, IN 46123

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November 13 & 14

Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo

2021 - ARRL - Central Division Convention

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum – 4000 Parnell Ave – Fort Wayne

<http://www.fortwaynhamfest.com>

Canceled 2021 Indiana Hamfests

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February 6 Hendrick County Hamfest

February 26, 2021 - LaPorte Cabin Fever Hamfest

April 3, 2021 - Columbus Hamfest

May – Dayton, Ohio Hamvention

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ARRL Indiana Section

Section Manager: Jimmy L Merry Jr, KC9RPX [kc9rpx@arrl.org](mailto:kc9rpx@arrl.org)







## MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

### W9MID Repeater:

146.835/  
146.235 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

### Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G  
Vice President: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG  
Secretary: Chris Read - W9OQ  
Treasurer: Chris Mazzarella - KC9VGQ  
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick - KQ9Y

### W9MID Repeater:

443.525/  
448.525 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS  
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, Indiana  
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

*Please send your articles to my email: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 2nd week of the month.*



*Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.*