

THE WCARC REPORTER



CATCH OUR SIGNAL

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 188

December 10, 2009

***WHITLEY COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC
P. O. BOX 652
COLUMBIA CITY, IN 46725***

PRESIDENT	Dan Dahms	N9WNH
VICE PRESIDENT	Melanie Dahms	W9NNH
TREASURER	Richard Leo	W9EEE
SECRETARY	Ewing Potts	K9RWO
TRUSTEE	Herman Smith	WB9SPY
TRUSTEE	Lanny Kelly	K9OOP
TRUSTEE	Ed Scott	K9EJS
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL

WEB SITE www.wcarc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Dave Keiser	WB9UNL	12-3	Herman Smith	WB9SPY	12-22
Homer Crowder	N9HRC	12-25	Homer Crowder	N9HRC	12-25
Joshua Church	K9KOP	12-28	Cathy Evilsizor	WB8ORR	1-17
Don Madison	W7WYZ	1-23			

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO ALL!!

INFORMATION PAGE

Whitley County Amateur Radio Club Inc.

2009 Board of Directors

President	Dan Dahms	N9WNH
Vice President	Melanie Dahms	W9NNH
Secretary	Ewing Potts	K9RWO
Treasurer	Richard Leo	W9EEE
1-Year Trustee	Herman Smith	WB9SPY
2-Year Trustee	Lanny Kelly	K9OOP
3-Year Trustee	Ed Scott	K9EJS

2009 Appointed Positions:

Newsletter Editor	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL
Web page Coordinator	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL
WC9AR Station & Repeater Trustee	Don Evilsizor	KA9QWC
Station Control Operator	Henry Mackey	N9HM
Station Control Operator	David Keiser	WB9UNL
Station Control Operator	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL
Station Control Operator	Dan Dahms	N9WNH
WCARC Club Net Control Manager	Don Evilsizor	KA9QWC
WCARC Club Net Control Operator	Melanie Dahms	W9NNH
WCARC Club Net Control Operator	Cathy Evilsizor	WB8ORR
WCARC Club Net Control Operator	Henry Mackey	N9HM
WCARC Club Net Control Operator	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL

2009 ARRL Special Service Club Appointments:

Public Information Officer (PIO)	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL
Official Emergency Station (OES)	WCARC	WC9AR
Local Government Liaison (LGL)	Henry Mackey	N9HM
Technical Specialist (TS)	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL
Official Relay Station (ORS)	Don Evilsizor	KA9QWC
Official Observer (OO)	Greg Watson	KA9DTZ

Indiana Section ARRL Appointments:

Whitley County ARES Emergency Coordinator Ed Scott K9EJS

2009 Standing Committee Appointments

Activities Committee:

Melanie Dahms W9NNH Chairperson
Ed Scott K9EJS Member
Richard Leo W9EEE Member

Audit Committee:

Lee Simmonds KC9CDT Chairperson
Richard Leo W9EEE Member
Ed Scott K9EJS Member

Communications Committee:

Roger McEntarfer N9QCL Chairperson
Dan Dahms N9WNH Member
Ewing Potts K9RWO Member

Education & Training Committee:

John Butcher KC9FBA Chairperson

Finance & Fundraising Committee:

Ewing Potts K9RWO Chairperson
John Butcher KC9FBA Member
Dan Dahms N9WNH Member

Health & Welfare Committee:

Dan Dahms N9WNH Chairperson

Historical Committee:

Dan Dahms N9WNH Chairperson

Membership Committee:

Melanie Dahms W9NNH Chairperson

Station & Repeater Committee:

Dan Dahms N9WNH Chairperson
Don Evilsizor KA9QWC Member
David Keiser WB9UNL Member
Roger McEntarfer N9QCL Member

Whitley County Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Minutes

November 12 2009

President Dan N9WNH, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. at the Peabody Library. Introductions were made by members present. There were 15 members present—see attached list.

Vice President Melanie W9NNH, read the minutes of the previous meeting as Secretary Ewing K9RWO was not present. A motion was made by Greg KA9DTZ, to accept the minutes and seconded by Betty KC9HYW with the following correction: Ft Wayne was stricken from the paragraph stating that Martin D Smith in Ft Wayne. Motion approved.

Treasurer Richard W9EEE presented the treasurer's report. Richard W9EEE stated that the June, July, August & September utility bills had been turned in to Cathy Broxon-Ball for reimbursement. Dan N9WNH reminded Richard W9EEE that he needed to get the November and December bills into Cathy before the cut off date so that we could be reimbursed. The treasurer's report was approved pending audit.

Vice-President Melanie W9NNH, reminded the group to RSVP with her so that a count could be turned in for the December Christmas banquet at American Table in Warsaw. The banquet will be held on the regular club meeting night, Thursday December 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Dan N9WNH, stated that he sent information on WCARC to Chris KB9YOW. Chris emailed Dan back and told him he would need transportation to and from the club meetings.

The 2009 Ft Wayne Hamfest will be held Saturday November 14 from 9am-4pm and Sunday November 15 from 9am-3pm.

Dan N9WNH thanked Don KA9QWC & Cathy WB8ORR for the use of their barn to check out the equipment from the estate belonging to Martin Smith's father. He also thanked Justin KC9DCP, Dave WB9LAF, Lee KC9CDT & Don KA9QWC for helping on the testing of the estate equipment. Dan stated that he would post the prices on line after getting the ok from Martin.

At this time the WCARC Board is allowed to spend \$150 if needed without membership approval. After discussion it was decided to raise the amount to \$300 with Richard W9EEE motioning & Ed K9EJS seconding.

Due to the fact that it presently takes 2 months to make an amendment to the WCARC By-Laws during the revision of the By-Laws it was decided that the membership dues amount would be removed. After much discussion and a secret ballot vote of 11 to 3 it was decided that dues would be raised for the WCARC 2010 year. The dues have now been raised from \$12 Full member & \$6 Associate, student, and each additional family to \$24 & \$12. It was motioned by Greg KA9DTZ to accept the majority vote and seconded by Don KA9QWC. Motion passed.

2009 Amateur of the Year Award:

The following WCARC members were nominated for the Amateur of the Year Award for 2009. Dave WB9LAF one vote, Greg KA9DTZ one vote, Dan N9WNH 5 votes & Melanie W9NNH 6 votes. Melanie W9NNH was declared to be the winner for the 2009 Amateur of the Year.

Dan N9WNH opened up the floor for nominations. Nominations for the 2010 election follow:

President:

Dan N9WNH was nominated by Dave WB9LAF

Melanie W9NNH was nominated by Don KA9QWC

Don KA9QWC motioned the nominations be closed with Betty KC9HYW seconding. Melanie W9NNH was declared the 2010 WCARC President.

Vice President:

Dave WB9LAF was nominated by Don KA9QWC

Betty KC9HYW was nominated by Melanie Dahms W9NNH

Melanie W9NNH motioned the nominations be closed with Lee KC9CDT seconding

Betty KC9HYW was declared the 2010 WCARC Vice President

Secretary:

Greg KA9DTZ was nominated by Melanie W9NNH with Greg KA9DTZ declining

Ewing K9RWO was nominated by Melanie W9NNH

Dan N9WNH was nominated by Melanie W9NNH

Don KA9QWC motioned the nominations be closed with Junior WB9SPY seconding

Dan N9WNH was declared the 2010 WCARC Secretary

Treasurer:

Greg KA9DTZ was nominated by Richard W9EEE with Greg KA9DTZ declining

Richard W9EEE was nominated by Lee KA9CDT with Richard W9EEE declining

Dave WB9LAF was nominated by Melanie W9NNH

Betty KC9HYW motioned the nominations be closed with Greg KA9DTZ seconding

Dave WB9LAF was declared the 2010 WCARC Treasure

3 year Director at Large:

Greg KA9DTZ was nominated by Dave WB9LAF with Greg KA9DTZ declining

Don KA9QWC was nominated by Dave WB9LAF with Don KA9QWC declining

Lee KC9CDT was nominated by Dan N9WNH with Lee KC9CDT declining

Bill KB9MDR was nominated by Dan N9WNH

Don KA9QWC motioned the nominations be closed with Junior WB9SPY seconding

Bill KB9MDR was declared the 2010 WCARC Director at Large

Starting January 15, 2010 the Peabody Public Library will be under construction so the WCARC General & Board meetings will be held at Parkview Whitley Hospital in the lower level in Auditorium C. The Whitley County ARES meetings will also be held at the hospital in meeting room 1.

After discussion it was decided starting December 6, 2009 the Whitley County Sunday Night net will move from the start time of 7:45pm to 8:00pm. With Melanie W9NNH motioning and Bill KB9MDR seconding.

Friends of the Peabody Public Library will be holding a book sale on November 28 & 29 with set up Friday the 27 and tear down on Sunday the 29 after the book sale. The club has again been requested to help.

Reminder to all WCARC members the club dues will be due on or before February 1, 2009.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. was made by Betty KC9HYW, seconded by Jeff N9HTX. Motion accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie W9NNH

Vice President

Whitley County Amateur Radio Club

Board Meeting

November 19, 2009

President Dan N9WNH, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Board members present were Dan Dahms N9WNH, Melanie Dahms W9NNH, Junior Smith WB9SPY & Lanny Kelly K9OOP. Club members present were Betty Watson KC9HYW, Greg Watson KA9DTZ, and Dave Keiser WB9UNL.

Vice President Melanie W9NNH, read the minutes of the previous meeting as Secretary Ewing K9RWO was not present. A motion was made by Melanie W9NNH to accept the minutes and seconded by Lanny. Motion approved.

Treasurer's report was approved pending audit. Checks for the June, July, August & September utility bills arrived and the check for commission for the Berdell WB9YUY estate.

Dan and Melanie met with Martin Smith to drop of the check for the partial estate sale at Portside pizza. Approximately 15 items remain that need to be sold.

Josh K9KOP has a pallet of Astron Power Supplies he would like to sell at \$50. He has offered to pay the club a \$10 commission if the club will help sell the power supplies.

Dan N9WNH, stated that he sent information on WCARC to Chris KB9YOW and he had heard nothing back since the last time.

Dan N9WNH brought up that the Educational and Audit Committees were not mentioned in the updated By-Laws. Dan N9WNH will right up an amendment for the January meeting to be added.

Vice-President Melanie W9NNH, reminded the group to RSVP with her so that a count could be turned in for the December Christmas banquet at American Table in Warsaw. The banquet will be held on the regular club meeting night, Thursday December 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Excess club equipment from Raytheon will in the future be put up for sale on a used equipment website.

It was discussed that membership cards will need to be ordered for the club. Greg KA9DTZ volunteered to look into it. It was motioned by Lanny K9OOP and seconded by Melanie W9NNH for Greg to look into it.

Starting January 15, 2010 the Peabody Public Library will be under construction so the WCARC General & Board meetings will be held at Parkview Whitley Hospital in the lower level in Auditorium C. The Whitley County ARES meetings will also be held at the hospital in meeting room 1.

An up coming ARES meeting will be held on December 3, 2009 at 7pm. The March 4, 2010 ARES meeting will fall on the same night as the SKYWARN training. Due to this the meeting will need to be moved.

The 2009 NWS SKYWARN Recognition Special Event will be held on December 4-5 from 7pm-7pm. Whitley County has again been asked to co-host this event.

After discussion it was voted at the general meeting starting December 6, 2009 the Whitley County Sunday Night net will move from the start time of 7:45pm to 8:00pm.

Friends of the Peabody Public Library will be holding a book sale on November 28 & 29 with set up Friday the 27 and tear down on Sunday the 29 after the book sale. The club has again been requested to help. Dan N9WNH, Melanie W9NNH and maybe Junior WB9SPY have volunteered at this time.

WCARC came in #10 out of 18 in Indiana for the 2009 Field Day.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. was made by Lanny K9OOP and seconded by Junior WB9SPY.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Dahms W9NNH
Vice President

EMA/EOC ANTENNA PERFORMANCE CLARIFICATION

KA9QWC

VHF/UHF - It was reported recent months that one of the vhf/uhf antennas would not perform properly and not effective when conducting communications to the Fort Wayne 146.88 repeater. That report raised some concerns on my part since numerous stations have reported working the Fort Wayne repeater simply using a HT with a rubber duck antenna from Columbia City. That alleged problem resulted in operator(s) wanting to only select a certain position with a specific antenna or even changing the antenna feed lines in the belief that was basically the only way one could work effectively with the 146.88 repeater.

This situation further created a secondary situation when different operators went to the EOC to conduct radio business not being aware of changes made or as happened in the past discovering a 2 meter antenna had been moved to a dual band vhf/uhf radio. That is not a good scenario to discover at the 11th hour when it is necessary to use one of the operator positions at a moment's notice.

Within the past month I personally had a test conducted with the 146.88 repeater from the EOC and received a report of full quieting using what was considered the faulty antenna. That was good news which in my opinion satisfies that any position can effectively communicate to Fort Wayne as it should be under normal conditions.

As a added note the initial reported problem may have been with the Kenwood dual band radio gear and not the antenna as originally indicated. Any problem of communications in regards to those antennas should be reported and made available all the other EOC operators. That way we could discuss the problem and try to resolve any short comings.

WHITLEY COUNTY HAM RADIO

KA9QWC

The Whitley County ham radio group has experienced both losses and gains in recent years with hopefully the gains to win out more on the end. We have suffered through losses due to Silent Keys (SK), others moving away or concentrating on other interests.

In addition to our WCARC there are several other groups represented by our members involving local, area and section activities. These groups made up of ARES, RACES, VE Team, nets and others filling designated positions or assignments all serving to make up a formidable team effort to be reckoned with in ham radio.

There may be times when conflicts arise that may make some of us a bit incensed over recent or past decisions and events somewhere in these groups. For that I can understand somewhat if it affected you personally. However even if embittered to some extent I do not think it is proper to become vindictive against another sector within our team. I would hope anyone caught up in any such scenario would not rail against others or resort to emphasizing support of one over the other. That is how little incidents create a bad situation that serves to divide or destroy a good team.

With that I may ad a MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

CoCoRAHS **KA9QWC**

I was a little surprised a while back when someone asked a question concerning CoCoRAHS and it got me to thinking a bit. Other than those who have received some training or have been involved in reporting maybe this topic has slipped a bit into a crevasse of sorts.

CoCoRaHS is a grassroots volunteer network of backyard weather observers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow) in their local communities. By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, our aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications. The only requirements to join are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather can effect and impact our lives.

What is CoCoRaHS - CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, our aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications. We currently operate in many states across the country. If we are not in your state please drop us a line and let us know that you have an interest in participating. This helps us know where a desire exists for the network and where to focus our future expansion efforts. A well defined web page can be found at the url below.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/>

Our initial exposure to CoCoRAHS with training resulted in numerous WCARC members receiving the specified FREE rain gauges used in reporting. Some members send in reports consistently while others may have found themselves overwhelmed with other tasks or problems resulting in no reports. I emphasized these rain gauges were distributed FREE to several WCARC members initially – those who would like to take the training can follow the guidelines provided on the cited web page above. However at this point in time it appears those gauges have to be purchased. The published price is \$25.00 plus shipping & handling.

Now for the question – If there are any WCARC members that may be inactive to possibly consider LOANING their unused rain gauge to someone who desires to get actively involved? Remember this was just a simple question - but if your gauge is not being used and available maybe it would encourage someone else to get involved.

Also possibly if interested in the program maybe our local county coordinator can be contacted for advice or assistance with this project.

Whitley County
Sam Lashley
National Weather Service - Northern Indiana
7506 E 850 N
Syracuse, IN 46567
(574) 834-1104
w-iwx.webmaster@noaa.gov

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 WC ARES NET 8:00 PM 145.270 ea Wed night	3 Whitley County ARES Quarterly Meeting 7 PM Hoosier Lake RC Mtg. 7:30 PM	4	5 HCARC ARES Net 8 PM - 146.685 ea Sat night
6 WCARC Sunday nite net - 7:45 PM 444.550 ea Sunday night	7 Siren test 12 PM 21 ARC Mtg. 7 PM	8	9 Warsaw Emergency Service net 7:00 PM ea Wed Night	10 WCARC Dimmer Mtg. 6:30 PM Wells Co ARC Mtg. 7 PM	11	12
13 6:00 PM Races Net 3.920 kHz	14 7:00 Races	15	16	17 WCARC Board Mtg. 7:00 PM	18	19 9 AM RACES NET
20 Packet Net ea Sunday nite @ 9:00 PM on 145.530	21 Siren test 12 PM	22	23 WC ARES Simplex NET following regular net on 146.55 MHz Every 3 rd Wed night	24	25 Christmas	26
27	28 HCARC Mtg. 7 PM	29	30	31		

2009