

ARES/RACES Group

Amateur Radio Serving Monroe County Indiana

May 2005

Volume 2, Number 5



Dits & Dahs

Friday, April 22 saw the first Skywarn net of the season in Monroe County. Although we pretty much got missed here, there were many reports of hail around the state (see page 5).

Early this April, Michael Koryta wrote an article in the Herald-Times titled "Dangerous tornado season looming?" He said the Storm Prediction Center is concerned by the number of large hail producing storms, 772 at his printing (4/3/05) as opposed to 247 for the same time last year.

As a component of the public warning system, we need to be on top of our game. We have a great group in Monroe County. Early indications are we could be very busy!

When you participate in severe weather nets remember this; you are **all** vital to the nets- *even if you have nothing to report!*

Thank you all for your service. Stay informed, stay sharp and **stay safe!**

73's

KB9WVI

Tactical Call Signs Q&A

When preparing for public event and ARES nets, the discussion often turns to the proper use of *tactical call signs*. We talked to Carl Zager KB9RVB Monroe County EMA RACES Officer and ARRL-ARES Emergency Coordinator to get the "low-down" on this often misunderstood topic.



during public service activity nets, tests and drills, and in the event of emergencies.

While "best practice" traffic handling utilizes appropriate message formats -- such as ARRL's RadioGram which is also supported by EMA RACES, Red Cross's Message Service, and ICS/NIM formats used by FEMA - some "just-in-time" messages are better passed by and to members of the supported agency using Section 97.115 procedures.

In an actual emergency, operators may be unfamiliar with each other's call signs and may take needed time to associate a call sign with an assigned location or task. In such cases, Section 97.119 spells out the rules for station identification.

Q: So, how *do* we handle tactical calls and working with various emergency response agencies?

A: The **MONROE COUNTY ARES-RACES GROUP** consistently recommends the use of "tactical call signs" and "third party traffic"

Q: You mentioned using "third party traffic." The licensed operator is responsible for what gets transmitted over his or her radio. In emergency situations, is allowing third party traffic *really* recommended during an emergency communications net?

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Monroe County ARES/RACES News & Notes



Standard First Aid

Saturday, June 25 (9 AM to 3 PM) or over 2 sessions Monday (6 pm to 10 pm) and Wednesday (6 pm to 8 PM) June 20 & 22.

Adult, Infant and Child CPR will be offered

Saturday June 11 (9 AM to 4 PM).

Call 332-7292 to enroll or for fee information



The \$39.95 special offer to Monroe Co. Storm Spotters ends **5PM May 31st**
<http://www.stormpredator.com/mcss.htm>



Send us your digital photos of weather or Amateur Radio events in Monroe County. Include a brief description, the location and date the photo was taken. E-mail to kb9wvi@arrl.net

VE Testing

1st Saturday each month 12:00 noon at the First United Church on East Third Street Bloomington, just west of Eastland Plaza behind PromptCare and IU Credit Union.

Please arrive 20-30 minutes early

What to bring:

\$14 testing fee

If 1st time testing: 2 pieces of I.D. one *must* be a photo I.D.

If upgrading: bring FCC license and CSCE's you may have along with photo copies of these documents as well as a photo I.D.



Three of our Monroe County ARES/RACES members have been informed they will receive the President's Volunteer Service Award. The citation honors citizens who perform 500 hours of community service in a calendar year.

Congratulations to

Bob Althaus KC9DRA
John Poehlman N9TFS
Kevin Pauley KB9WVI

For more information go to presidentalserviceawards.gov

BLOOMINGTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Friday May 6th topic:

Soldering Workshop

with

Bobby Bristoe KB9UVW

7 PM Bloomington High School

South Please note this **one time** change of venue!

Local Nets

WB9LTH (146/64)

NCS Schedule

MAY

Mondays @ 7:00 p.m.

2 KB9UVW BOBBY

6 KB9WVI KEVIN

16 KC9GOI BARRY

23 KF9RA ALLEN

30 N9RGI MIKE

Back-up for Mike will be **WA9MTH RICK**

K9IU

Sunday Night Net

Featuring Amateur

Radio NewsLine

7 P.M. 146.940 pl136.5

Every Sunday, with the exception of the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Southern IN Simplex Net

146.580

Every Monday at 8:00 p.m. or after WB9TLH net NCS Maynard Raggio N9PTG

Net Procedure: Make a list of stations you hear from your location. Check in your call sign alphabetically. NCS will come back to you and ask for your location, radio output, antenna type, and the list of stations you heard. This gives us valuable information regarding our ability to cover the region with simplex communications.

Please join us!

State Skywarn Net

First Monday each month 8:00p.m.

Indy repeater 146.790 (-) PL 77.

Freetown link 147.435 simplex PL 77

“Tactical” continued:

A: Rather than assume that the Radio Amateur can relay a complicated or technical request through a second radio operator to the recipient, **MONROE COUNTY ARES-RACES GROUP** advocates the hams functioning as "Control Operators" while the non-Amateur passes the message to the non-Amateur. Such third party traffic assures that the just-in-time message is the message which the agency desires transmitted. The hams are present and constantly monitoring and supervising the non-Amateurs' participation.



Q: Well, that certainly makes sense. But we’ve got a lot of new radio amateurs coming in and some may have never heard third party traffic used before. What is that going to sound like on the air?

A: “OK. Lets put KB9WVI at Rest Area 2 at the ‘Hilly Hundred’, and I’m running the Net Control Station. It’s going to sound something like this:”

Rest Area 2, Rest Area 2, this is Net Control.

Net Control, this is Rest Area 2.

Rest Area 2, I have third party traffic for the rest stop supervisor.

Net Control, please stand by while I get her. KB9WVI, clear.

This is Net Control, KB9RVB, standing by.

Net Control, this is Rest Area 2. I have the rest stop supervisor.

This is KB9WVI with third party traffic for Hilly through KB9RVB.

This is KB9RVB with third party traffic for Rest Area 2 through KB9WVI.

“At this point we give the mic over to these individuals or maybe even key the mic for them if they need that, and we let them pass their traffic while you monitor the person on your end and I do the same at my end.”

“We’re going to make sure they abide by all the rules and regulations you and I have to, and we’ll be right there to assist with any difficulties they may have handling their traffic.”

“When they’re finished, we simply announce the end of their third party conversation.”

This is KB9RVB ending third party traffic.

This is KB9WVI ending third party traffic and clear. KB9RVB, clear.

“The use of the tactical calls positively identifies the locations. Both stations clearly FCC ID at the close of the communication. The use of third party protocol allows non-hams to communicate directly, while the stations are controlled by the licensed hams.”

Q: Let’s go back to tactical call signs using your previous example with me operating as “Rest Area 2” at the Hilly Hundred. Under *normal* traffic situations, how and when do I.I.D. with my *personal assigned* FCC callsign?

A: Station identification is a procedure that carries some misconceptions. Section 97.119 clearly states that call sign identification is required "on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication and at least every 10 minutes during a communication." Space and telecommand stations are exceptions to the rule. Two-way communications often involve many stated or implied "overs." **MONROE COUNTY ARES-RACES GROUP** does not treat those as the "end of ... communication." Therefore, the use of a tactical call - Rest Area 2, Memorial Union, Red Cross Command, Net Control, etc. - to facilitate identification of the station and/or the location is legal under FCC regulations, as long as the stations "transmit ... assigned [FCC] call sign" as above - at the END and every 10 minutes during. **MONROE COUNTY ARES-RACES GROUP** will continue to advocate these practices during public service activity nets, tests and drills, and in the event of emergencies.

Q: Final question; where can we find the FCC Part 97 regulations we’ve been talking about here? And by the way; thank you for your help with this topic!

A: “You’re welcome. I appreciate the chance to discuss it because we do indeed need to be on the same page here. You can find section 97 regulations at the Bloomington Amateur Radio Club’s website at barcradio.org, on the ARRL web site or with a keyword search of “FCC part 97”. This is something you should copy and keep if you haven’t already done that.”

News From Indiana Section ARRL

Emergency Comm Grants Ending Soon!

In June, the last seat to be offered under the Corporation for National and Community Service sponsored grant will open. After that, only a small number of reimbursable seats in each course will be offered under the United Technologies Corporation grant through October.

At this time, no further grant-sponsored reimbursement for EmComm course students is on the horizon. The monthly registration calendar is found online at www.arrl.org/cce/calendar.html. Registration can be done on-line during the applicable registration window at www.arrl.org/forms.cce/ as stated at www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html,

Registration via regular mail is also an option. Please include the course you wish to enroll in, your age group, gender, veteran status, preferred email address, and telephone number. If you have further questions, please send them to cce@arrl.org.

2005 Indiana QSO Party

Announcing the 2005 Indiana QSO Party to be held on May 7. The Hoosier DX Contest Club is sponsoring this event. Details of the Indiana QSO Party can be found at the HDXCC website, www.hdxcc.org.

Here is an opportunity to make Indiana visible to the world. The HDXCC has developed a Worked All Indiana Award for stations confirming contacts with all 92 counties (details to be posted on the HDXCC website soon).

HDXCC

the Hoosier DX and Contest Club

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

IRCC Technical Excellence Award

Each year the Indiana Radio Club Council selects one Hoosier ham to receive this prestigious award during the Indianapolis Hamfest in July at Camp Sertoma. The IRCC Technical Excellence Award nominations deadline is Midnight Friday June 10, 2005. All Indiana amateur radio clubs and organizations need to consider one of their own as a nominee for the IRCC Technical Excellence Award. Send your E-mail entry to Jack Parker W8ISH, IRCC Vice-Chairman, at w8ish@arrl.net , or jparker@iquest.net .

Indiana Section ARRL Convention

Please put the annual Indiana Section ARRL Convention and Fort Wayne Hamfest on your calendar for 2005. The Convention/Hamfest will be held November 19-20, at the Allen County Coliseum in its usual location. This event has become what appears to be Indiana's largest hamfest. Attendance in 2004 was in excess of 5000 attendees. The ARRL Executive Committee has already approved this Convention/Hamfest for 2005.

Club Coordinator Wanted

ARRL is searching for a new Affiliated Club Coordinator for the Indiana Section Staff, as our current ACC, Roy Jackson N9RG will be leaving Indiana in the near future. E-mail ARRL Indiana Section Manager: James S. Sellers, K9ZBM at k9zbm@arrl.org if you are interested. The appointment description is on the League's website.



First Skywarn Net



The first severe weather net of the 2005 season in Monroe County came on Friday April 22. Bobby Bristoe KB9UVW brought up the net at 4:55 pm at the request of the National Weather Service.

Monroe County was very fortunate as there were no reports fitting the severe weather criteria. However there were reports of wind damage from Mike Aronoff N9YYM who happened upon a pair of trees broken off at ground level near the Bloomington Airport.

After Action Report:

1. Nature of Activity: Alert
 2. Activity Description: National Weather Service issued a Skywarn alert and requested a local ARES net.
 3. Places or areas involved: Monroe County and south central Indiana.
 4. Number of amateurs participating: 21
 5. Event start date/time: 04.22.05 16:55 GMT5
 6. Event end date/time 04.22.05 18:23 GMT5
 7. Duration of event (hours): 2:48
 8. Total person-hours: 58.8
 9. Number of repeaters used: 2
 10. Estimated person-power cost: \$ 588.00
 11. Estimated cost of equipment used: \$ 17,250.00
 12. Total estimated cost of service (10+11): \$ 17,838.00
 13. Nets and/or frequencies used: 146.64 WB9TLH, 146.97 WB9OPR
 14. Number of messages handled: 0 NTS
 15. Names of agencies receiving communications support: NWS
 16. Call signs of major participants: KB9UVW (NCS), KB9HJW (liaison to NWS 146.97)
 17. Other comments: 11 base, 10 mobile.
- Amateur Radio organization providing service:
 Monroe County ARES-RACES Group
 Location: Bloomington, IN



For complete national listings see spc.noaa.gov

Tornado Reports April 22, 2005

time	location	county	comments
23201	8 S RUSHVILLE	RUSH	MILROY...TORNADO TOUCHDOWN (IND)

Hail Reports

time	1/100"	location	county	comments
2015	75	MITCHELL	LAWRENCE	
2033	100	POSEYVILLE	POSEY	
2040	425	12 NW EVANSVILLE	VANDERBURGH	IN THE TOWN OF ST. WENDEL... WINDOWS WERE BROKEN OUT FROM HAIL.
2040	75	4 NE MEDORA	JACKSON	US 50 AND 135 (IND)
2047	75	MCKINLEY	WASHINGTON	PENNY SIZE HAIL COVERING THE GROUND. (LMK)
2050	100	HAUBSTADT	GIBSON	
2050	88	1 NE MOORESVILLE	MORGAN	
2058	100	5 SW INDIANAPOLIS	MARION	
2059	100	10 SW SEYMOUR	JACKSON	
2121	100	5 E VINCENNES	KNOX	US 50 MILE MARKER 9 (IND)
2127	100	3 W GREENWOOD	JOHNSON	FRY RD AND US 31 (IND)
2141	100	5 S INDIANAPOLIS	MARION	
2155	75	6 SE NORTH VERNON	JENNINGS	
2155	175	FAIRLAND	SHELBY	ST RD 44 W OF SHELBYVILLE
2202	175	LIVONIA	WASHINGTON	
2202	100	CARMEL	HAMILTON	
2205	88	BROWNSTOWN	JACKSON	HAIL COMPLETELY COVERS GROUND (IND)
2205	88	2 S OSGOOD	RIPLEY	
2210	175	INDIANAPOLIS	MARION	
2221	75	FISHERS	HAMILTON	96TH AND 169 (IND)
2232	88	8 E DANVILLE	HENDRICKS	HAIL AT AVON...36 AND 1 MILE NORTH (IND)
2238	175	1 E SHELBYVILLE	SHELBY	I74 AND SR44...HAIL ALL OVER THE ROAD (IND)
2238	75	CARMEL	HAMILTON	HAIL COVERING GROUND (IND)
2301	100	10 S SHELBYVILLE	SHELBY	
2326	100	12 NE GREENSBURG	RUSH	CLARKSBURG (IND)
2327	150	5 S MOORESVILLE	MORGAN	

Wind Reports

time	mph	location	county	comments
2022	60	WADESVILLE	POSEY	
2025	UNK	WADESVILLE	POSEY	TREES DOWN AND FENCES PULLED OUT OF GROUND NEAR WADESVILLE ON STATE R 66.
2036	60	EVANSVILLE	VANDERBURGH	WAS REPORTED ON THE WEST SIDE OF EVANSVILLE. (PAH)
2040	UNK	EVANSVILLE	VANDERBURGH	MULTIPLE TREES AND LINES DOWN (PAH)
2100	68	3 E VINCENNES	KNOX	
2108	60	OAKLAND CITY	GIBSON	
2110	UNK	PETERSBURG	PIKE	NUMEROUS TREES DOWN IN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG. (PAH)
2145	UNK	WASHINGTON	DAVISS	POWER LINES DOWN...TREES DOWN (IND)
2148	UNK	BIRDSEYE	DUBOIS	18 INCH DIAMETER TREE DOWN IN ROAD. (LMK)
2157	UNK	LOGOOTE	MARTIN	TREES/LIMBS DOWN (IND)
2200	UNK	JASPER	DUBOIS	NUMEROUS REPORTS OF TREES AND POWER LINES DOWN BLOCKING OR CLOSING ROADS ACROSS COUNTY. 60 MPH WIND GUST IN PATOKA LAKE AREA. ALSO ON INTERSTATE 64 NEAR SPENCER COUNTY (LMK)
2225	UNK	6 W SHELBYVILLE	SHELBY	TREE DEBRIS (IND)
2245	60	NEW ALBANY	FLOYD	
2249	UNK	BROWNSTOWN	JACKSON	NUMEROUS 3 FT TREES UPROOTED (IND)
2300	UNK	SELLERSBURG	CLARK	TREES DOWN. (LMK)
2354	UNK	MOORESVILLE	MORGAN	SMALL LIMBS DOWN...STREET FLOODING (IND)

TOPOFF 3 and ARES

If you don't get the weekly ARRL Letter in your email, the April 8 issue talked about the two TOPOFF 3 terrorism response exercises that received national media coverage recently. ARES volunteers in New Jersey and Connecticut assisted Red Cross in both locations with emergency communications in an exercise that was designed to push disaster response past the breaking point to identify its weaknesses.

The New London exercise cost \$16 M and volunteers were cautioned to prepare for visual realism that included detonation of an explosive device and simulated dead and injured.

As most ARES volunteers are aware, Red Cross has primary responsibility for mass care. ARES provided communication among all of the Red Cross emergency response vehicles (ERVs), mobile canteens, kitchen, headquarters and other sites the organization needed stay in touch with. At times as many as 40 of the 150 ARES volunteers in the New London drill were working in the field.

The organizers tried several ways to break down the response plan. One of the "curve balls" thrown at the communications group was the loss of the primary repeater. As we would expect, ARES personnel adjusted by switching to alternate frequencies and continued with emergency traffic. The New Jersey exercise had to work around a naturally occurring "curve ball" as they performed the drill while dealing with a major flood in the area.

Homeland Security, Emergency Management and Red Cross officials in both drills were reported to have had nothing but praise for the performance of amateur radio. These high profile events may not have brought the ARES component to the public's attention, but it sure got noticed by local and national government agencies. It is the possibility of having to respond to a such a situation that makes ARES nets, participation in community events, and our simulations and exercises so important locally. And yes, something like this could happen even here in Monroe County.

Gadgets

Here's a real neat item from "Chief Supply" a supplier of equipment and clothing to law enforcement and first responders. I emailed John Procopio of Chief Supply and received permission to print text and photos from their catalog. We haven't actually seen one of these yet to be able to make any kind of product endorsements, but it really looks cool! See if this isn't something you'd like for *your* ready-kit!



EASYDESK The Easy Way to Work in Your Vehicle

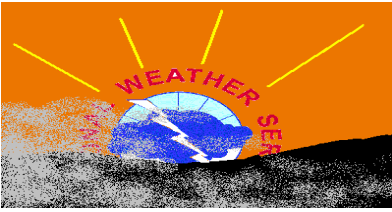
EasyDesk is ideal for anyone who must use his or her vehicle as an office or just needs a

comfortable writing surface in the car occasionally. It is constructed of rugged ABS, a strong yet flexible plastic which makes EasyDesk durable and virtually indestructible.



The Easy Desk lists for \$17.95 and come in tan or black. Thanks John Procopio for letting us use these images. Look for Chief on-line at:





NWS Outlook: Foggy!

The National Weather Services Duties Act of 2005

The National Weather Services Duties Act of 2005 (see it at <http://thomas.loc.gov/> enter bill # "S786") introduced by Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) is causing concern among consumers of National Weather Services' many on-line products. The intent of the bill as stated in a press release on Sen. Santorum's website April 14 is to modernize the NWS's "roles within the national weather enterprise, so that it reflects today's reality in which the National Weather Service and the commercial weather industry both play important parts in providing weather products and services to the nation."

The statement recalls that in 2004, NOAA repealed a policy established in 1991 of non-competition and non-duplication, asserting the decision detracted "from NWS's core missions of maintaining a modern and effective meteorological infrastructure, collecting comprehensive observational data, and issuing warnings and forecasts of severe weather that imperil life and property."

Senator Santorum's bill (continuing from his website) "restores the NWS non-competition policy. The legislation leaves NWS with complete and unfettered freedom to carry out its critical role of preparing and issuing severe weather warnings and forecasts designed for the protection of life and property of the general public."

NOAA itself commissioned a study by the National Research Council which published "Fair Weather: Effective Partnerships in Weather and Climate Services," (National Academy Press, 2003)

The report may be read on-line at <http://books.nap.edu/catalog/10610.html>

The introduction outlines the purpose of the study as follows:

Examine the present roles of the public, private, and academic sectors in the provision and use of weather, climate, and related environmental information and services in the United States

Identify the effects that advances in observing, modeling, forecasting, and information dissemination technologies may have on the respective roles of the public, private, and academic sectors.

Examine the interface between the various sectors, identify barriers to effective interaction, and recommend changes in policies or practices that could improve the potential for providing weather and climate information.

Make recommendations regarding how to coordinate the roles most effectively among the various sectors.

S786 seems to try to put into law the findings of the study. However, parts of the bill raises red flags. Tom Busch WB8WOR, a past Bloomington Amateur Radio Club President and current ARES and RACES member, expresses concerns shared by many who have read the bill.

"I find that the most distressing part of the bill is section (c)(1), which states that the data NWS collects shall be released "...through a set of data portals designed for volume access by commercial providers of products or services...", and section (d), which makes it illegal for employees or "agents" of the NWS to disclose "...weather data, information, guidance, forecast, or warning..." before it is released through those channels in (c)(1). The public paid for that data. The public has a right to it."

The language of the bill has lead several aviation Web sites, for exsample, to fear the legislation "would essentially yank the popular NWS Web site off the Internet" as opined at AVweb.

Another concern expressed in several forums is that the bill essentially provides government subsidy for Accu Weather and similar commercial enterprises like the Weather Channel, since data collected at taxpayer expense through NOAA resources will be sold back to the public as weather products.

Accu Weather in particular has been critical of NOAA. Aero-News.Net, another aviation Web site, quoted Barry Myers, executive vice president of AccuWeather, based in State College, Pa. as stating in *the Post*, "The National Weather Service has not focused on what its core mission should be, which is protecting other people's lives and property. It spends hundreds of millions of dollars a year, every day, producing forecasts of 'warm and sunny.'"

Our Indianapolis contact with NWS, Dave Tucek tells us NOAA has not taken an official stance on the bill. However, Ed Johnson, the Weather Service's Director of Strategic Planning and Policy told the Post (as reported in the same Aero-News.Net article) his agency is expanding its online offerings to serve the public. "If someone claims that our core mission is just warning the public of hazardous conditions, that's really impossible unless we forecast the weather all the time. You don't just plug in your clock when you want to know what time it is."

ARES/RACES Newsletter asked our ARES/RACES Group Chairman Carl Zager KB9RVB for his take on the local consequences of the bill.

"At the risk of appearing political, this bill has the appearance of 'cherry picking.' Some political beliefs hold that such services are the province of the government; others find it unseemly that government(s)"compete unfairly" with private contractors. My belief is that the only services the private contractors want to provide are those that can turn a profit; they will leave the others to be offered (or not) by the government. But that's politics. Some you win; some get rained out (pun)."

"As others have pointed out, this bill does call into question the ability of the NWS to provide adequate warning to communities as well as to use its information to position spotters to gather onsite reports. But that may continue to be possible in the final analysis."

"What may be more immediate will be the ability of amateur meteorologists to use NWS data in their analysis. Hobbyists have benefited from the availability of NWS radar and statistics, as opposed to

using costly subscription services from private providers."

"If such information were only a personal hobby, the question might not be germane. But among the amateur meteorologists are also amateur radio operators who have volunteered the use of their equipment and expertise to the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) operations in their communities."

"Can the ARES-RACES groups respond to NWS without the information now available? If the intent of the bill is to prevent hobbyists from accessing free NWS information, local weather spotters still have the radio information and direction from NWS. On the other hand, if the intent of the bill is to prevent NWS from giving local communities a "heads up" on weather events, then the impact is much more serious."

"As NWS points out to amateur radio operators and others in their Skywarn training, the best and most reliable information about local conditions comes from the observer on the ground, not from the technological data being gathered from afar. The radar continues to get more and more sophisticated, but NWS still expects a storm spotter on the ground to report the conditions under the suspicious soundings being seen by the professional meteorologists. Thus, the NWS sees a weather pattern developing, calls for local spotters to eyeball the conditions and report specific information to flesh out the data. Does the bill impact that process?"

Too many question remain to be answered regarding S786. Some see this as the sun setting on the National Weather Service – at least as we have known it. However, the bill *does* claim to allow NWS the "freedom to carry out its critical role of preparing and issuing severe weather warnings."

All we know now is the current outlook appears to call for an unsettled climate and perhaps heavy storms in the Washington D.C. area. Any long-range prediction will be difficult to forecast at this time. We urge you to stay informed on this issue and express your opinions and concerns.