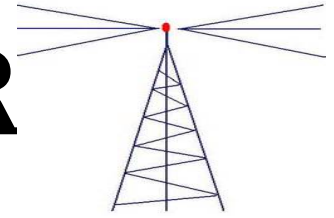


# OFF THE AIR



Please visit us online at: [www.GrantARC.com](http://www.GrantARC.com)

## *“Off The Air”*

Is the official publication of the  
Grant County Amateur Radio Club

### **2017 OFFICERS**

*President: Scott Shepler - KC9RAX*  
*Vice President: Chris Paul - KC9QZE*  
*Secretary Sarah Andrews - KC9RNR*  
*Treasurer Steve Shepler – WA9RVM*  
*Trustee Kevin McNeely – KB9CRA*  
*Newsletter Editor L.B. Nickerson - K9NQW*

<http://www.grantarc.org>  
Member – Indiana Radio Club Council

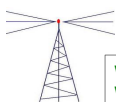
**The GCARC is an ARRL affiliated club.**  
If you are not currently a member of ARRL,  
We strongly encourage you to consider joining.

**The American Radio Relay League**  
**225 Main St.,Newington, CT 06111**  
**or phone (860)594-0200**  
**or fax (860) 594-0303**

#### **Indiana Section Staff:**

Section Manager Brent Walls - N9BA  
Section Emergency Coordinator Tony Stokes - KU9V  
Section Government Liason Steven Jones - W9SMJ  
Official Observer Coordinator Lou Everett Sr - WA5LOU  
Section Traffic Manager Brian Jenks - W9BGJ  
Public Information Coordinator Barry Palencer - KC9WMS  
Section Youth Coordinator Andrew Murrey - N9AWM  
Technical Coordinator Mark Westermeier - N9OZ  
Affiliated Club Coordinator James Merry - KC9RPX

[Http://www.inarrl.org](http://www.inarrl.org)  
**Section Jobs Description**  
[Http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/)



### **Grant County ARC Nets**

**What:** 2 Meter Net and Swap Net  
**When:** Every Sunday Evening  
**Time:** 2100 hrs Local Time  
**Freq:** 147.790- (PL 141.3)

**What:** DMR Net – Indiana Crossroads Net  
**When:** Every Monday Night  
**Time:** 2000 hrs Local Time  
**Freq:** 442.750+ (Color Code 1)

**What:** Dstar Net – Indiana Statewide Dstar Net  
**When:** Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Evening  
**Time:** 1930 hrs Local Time  
**Freq:** 443.400+ {(W9EBN) (Reflector 24b)}

## **Special Edition Newsletter**

**I am putting together a Special Edition  
Newsletter for the month of April.**

**This Newsletter is going to be on the  
subject  
Of being prepared for disasters, both  
Manmade and Natural.**

**The emphasis is going to be on Go-  
Kits  
For 12 hour, 24 hours, and 72 hours.**

**These Go-Kits will include both  
Amateur  
Radio equipment and personal items.**

**We will also be giving you websites to  
go to  
For additional information.**

### **Editor's Note**

Nick – K9NQW

I just want to say that this newsletter is your newsletter. This newsletter will be a bi-monthly newsletter. It will be published on the Grant County Amateur Radio webpage at <http://www.grantarc.org>.

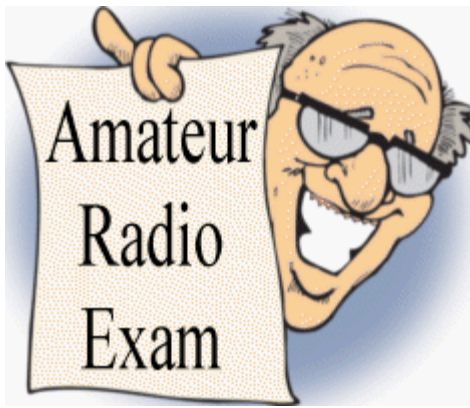
All members will receive an email from the club stating that the newsletter has been posted.

As I said this is your newsletter. If there is anything that you, as a ham, would like to see in this letter please email me at [k9nqw@arrl.net](mailto:k9nqw@arrl.net). Any news worthy item will be considered. Future plans will include a Swap or For Sale column. If there is something that you are looking for or have for sale let me know.

One last thing. I volunteer for several Bike Rides and Marathons in the Indianapolis area during the spring and summer months. We are always looking for volunteers. This is a great way to learn and keep up on working with other hams in a directed net. If you know of events in the surrounding areas, we could also post them in this newsletter.

I look forward to the challenge of bringing this newsletter to the club members. And I hope that with you help we can make this newsletter a success.

Nick – K9NQW  
[k9nqw@arrl.net](mailto:k9nqw@arrl.net)



## **\*\* Hamfest \*\***

**Date:** 03/11/2017

**Locations:** Clay County 4-H  
Fairgrounds  
6650 N State Road 59  
Brazil, IN 47834

**Website:** <http://www.w9uuu.org>

**Sponsor:** Wabash Valley ARA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In Freq:** 146.685 (PL 151.4)

**Contact:** Kevin Berlen, K9HX

308 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Clay City, IN 47841  
Phone: 812-239-9140  
**Email:** [k9hx@arrl.net](mailto:k9hx@arrl.net)

**Date:** 04/22/2017

**Locations:** Miami County 4-H  
Fairgrounds  
1029 W. 200 N.  
Peru, IN 46970

**Website:** <http://nic-hamfest.net>

**Sponsor:** Grant County ARC, Miami  
County ARC, Cass County ARC,  
Kokomo ARC

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In Freq:** 147.345

**Contact:** Steve Shepler, WA9RVM  
Box 824  
Marion, IN 46952

**Phone:** 765-661-5260

**Email:** [shepler1@gmail.com](mailto:shepler1@gmail.com)

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### **\*\*Membership Dues \*\***

2017 membership dues are now due. You  
can send your check or money order to:

**Steve Shepler WA9RVM**  
**Box 824**  
**Marion, IN 46952**

Form is on line at: [grantarc.org](http://grantarc.org)

Make your check or money order out to:  
**GCARC**

**Dues:**

**Full Annual Membership:** \$20.00 per person  
**Family Annual Membership:** Full membership +  
\$5.00 per person, maximum of \$30/household  
**Associate Membership:** \$10.00 per person.

**03/02/2017**

**Sponsor:** Jay County VE Team  
**Time:** 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** Robert E. Sours  
(260) 726-5575  
**Email:** [rsours@comcast.net](mailto:rsours@comcast.net)  
**Location:** Jay County Public  
Library  
315 N. Ship Street  
Portland, IN 47371-1843

**03/15/2017**

**Sponsor:** Anderson Repeater Club  
**Time:** 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** Stephen M. Riley  
(765) 425-4627  
**Email:** [smriley@hughes.net](mailto:smriley@hughes.net)  
**Location:** Madiosn County EOC  
200 Delaware Street  
Anderson, IN 46016-2238

**03/25/2017**

**Sponsor:** Wells County Radio  
Club.  
**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** Rick Allen Velasquez  
(765) 348-9322  
**Email:** [ab9hp@yahoo.com](mailto:ab9hp@yahoo.com)  
**Location:** Annex Building  
223 W. Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714-1996

**03/28/2017**

**Sponsor:** Grant County ARC  
**Time:** 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins)  
**Contact:** James C. Davis  
(765) 664-9848  
**Email:** [davis@comteck.com](mailto:davis@comteck.com)  
**Location:** Marion Public Library  
600 South Washington Street  
Marion, IN 46952-9999

**\*\* ALL VEC: ARRL/VEC \*\***

**Unless noted otherwise**  
**FOR MORE INFO ON ARRL/VEC**  
**EMAIL: [vec@arrl.org](mailto:vec@arrl.org)**

**04/19/2017**

**Sponsor:** Anderson Repeater Club  
**Time:** 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** Stephen M. Riley  
(765) 425-4627  
**Email:** [smriley@hughes.net](mailto:smriley@hughes.net)  
**Location:** Madiosn County EOC  
200 Delaware Street  
Anderson, IN 46016-2238

**04/25/2017**

**Sponsor:** Grant County ARC  
**Time:** 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins)  
**Contact:** James C. Davis  
(765) 664-9848  
**Email:** [davis@comteck.com](mailto:davis@comteck.com)  
**Location:** Marion Public Library  
600 South Washington Street  
Marion, IN 46952-9999

**04/29/2017**

**Sponsor:** Whitley County ARC, Inc.  
**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** Roger L. McEntarger  
(260) 503-9008  
**Email:** [n9qcl@arrl.net](mailto:n9qcl@arrl.net)  
**VEC:** W5YI Vec  
**Location:** Peabody Library  
1160 East State Road 205  
Community Rooms A & B  
Columbia City, IN 46725-2312

**04/29/2015**

**Sponsor:** Clinton County ARC  
**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** Michael V. Meiers  
(765) 654-4814  
**Email:** [republic48@yahoo.com](mailto:republic48@yahoo.com)  
**Location:** Frankfort Community  
Public Library  
208 West Clinton Street  
Room 208  
Frankfort, IN 46041-1811

## ARRL Central Division Contest Advisory Committee Representative

Dear ARRL Central Division Members,

For over 18 years Mr. Gregory Clark, K9IG, of Franklin, Indiana has served as the Central Division's representative to the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee (CAC). Having been appointed by Mr. Ed Metzger, W9PRN in 1999, K9IG has been recognized as a guiding presence on this important body. His work on this committee has helped the decision-making process of the ARRL Board regarding HF Contesting during the term of three Central Division Directors. Greg has announced his retirement from this committee position effective today. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for his service to the League and amateur radio over the past two decades. Thank you Greg!

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Greg Thompson, K9CT, of Trivoli, Illinois has accepted the appointment as the ARRL Central Division Representative to the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. Graig's accomplishments in amateur radio contesting includes many first place contest finishes and he holds several contest records. Graig is an ARRL Life Member, a member of the N9DXA, CW ops, A-1 Operators, the Maxim Society, and his Board member of the NCDXF. Graig also presently serves as the President of the Society of Midwest Contesters.

I look forward to working with Graig as part of the ARRL Central Division team.

73, Kermit Carlson W9XA  
ARRL Central Division  
Director: Kermit A Carlson, W9XA  
[w9xa@arrl.org](mailto:w9xa@arrl.org)

Reprinted from an email received from ARRL Members Only Web Site



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*Contesting*



Below is a list for contesting. The list is from the ARRL.org webpage.

March  
DX Contest Date: 4-5

April  
Rookie Roundup (SSB) Date: 16

June  
June VFH QSO Party Date: 10-12  
Kid's Day (Jan and June) Date: 18  
Field Day Date: 24-25

Rules can be found at [www.arrl.org/contest](http://www.arrl.org/contest)

Also for other contests that are available go to the above webpage and look under Contest Corral



## \*Skywarn Training\*

It is that time of year again.

Below is a list of Skywarn Training for the surrounding area.

**Date:** Thursday Mar 2, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Cass County  
1 Ivy Tech Way  
Logansport, IN 46947

**Date:** Thursday Mar 9, 2017

**Time:** 06:00 PM

**Location:** Wells County  
200 W Washington St  
Bluffton, IN 46714

### Rescheduled – Miami County

**Date:** Monday Mar 20, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Miami County  
401 North Broadway  
Peru, IN 46970

Preregistration is highly recommended. Go to the following website to register. [www.weather.gov/iwx/Spotter\\_Event\\_List](http://www.weather.gov/iwx/Spotter_Event_List)

The below Skywarn classes are from the Indianapolis NWS. Preregistration is NOT REQUIRED. For more information go to the following website. [www.weather.gov/ind/spotter\\_talk](http://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter_talk)

**Date:** Thursday Mar 2, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Location:** Delaware County EMS  
Fire Station 3  
4501 E Memorial Drive  
Muncie, IN 47302

**Date:** Saturday Mar 11, 2017

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Location:** Salvation Army  
4020 Georgetown Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46254

**Date:** Monday Mar 13, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** IUPUI Campus Center  
Room 308  
University Boulevard  
Indianapolis, IN

**Date:** Tuesday Feb 21, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Allen County  
7602 Patriot Crossing  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46806

## Special Events Stations

### 03/01/2017 Peace Corps Third Goal SE

**Mar 1 -Mar 7 1500Z-1500Z, KA9NLX,**  
Arlington Heights, IL  
Peace Corps Amateur Radio Club.  
7.283, 21.375, 7.065, 21.150  
Certificate, John Paskevicz,  
1423 N Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.  
Commemorate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India 24 PC  
Group [jpaskev@aol.com](mailto:jpaskev@aol.com)

### 03/11/2017 The American Legion 98<sup>th</sup> Commemoration

**Mar 11, 1800Z-2359Z, K9TAL,**  
Indianapolis, IN. The American Legion  
Amateur Radio Club. 7.225; 147.315  
K9DC Repeater; IRLP Node 9735;  
EchoLink **CROSSRDS** Conf. Node.  
Certificate & QSL. The American Legion  
Amateur Radio Club, c/o The American  
Legion, 700 N. Pennsylvania St.,  
Indianapolis, IN 46204.  
[k9tal@legion.org](mailto:k9tal@legion.org) Or [www.legion.org/hamradio](http://www.legion.org/hamradio)

### 03/25/2017 W/K ARC of Greater Milwaukee - 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Mar 25-Mar 26, 0000Z-2359Z, W9K,**  
Hales Corners, WI. W/K ARC of Greater  
Milwaukee. 21.260, 7.275, 3.850. QSL  
Jerry Scherkenbach, N9AW, 11300 Bridget  
LN, Hales Corners, WI 53130. **CW** 50 Khz  
Up from the bottom of the band Standard  
Digital Frequencies. W/K celebrates 40 yrs  
As an Affiliated club. QSL with SASE.  
[www.wkarc.club](http://www.wkarc.club)

### 04/22/2017 Earth Day 2017

**Apr 22, 1600Z-2200Z, N9E,**  
Clay City, IN. Clay County AUXCOM, 14.280,  
7.280, 3.980. Certificate. Clay County AUXCOM,  
308 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Clay City, IN 47841. Please  
Send a business size SASE.

More info at [www.arrl.org/special-event-stations](http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations)

## Volunteers needed for 2017 Events Needing Hame Radio Support

The following events take place in the Indianapolis area.

This year, we have:

Sat May 6 Mini Marathon  
Sat May 27 500 Festival Parade  
Sat Aug 5 Indy Air Race (NOT the Red Bull)  
Sat Sep 9 Multiple Sclerosis 100 Mile Bike Ride  
Sat Oct 7 American Diabetes Tour-de-Cure Bike Ride  
Sat Oct 7 Indianapolis Half Marathon in Lawrence  
Sat Nov 4 Monumental Marathon

Please let me know if you are volunteering this year.

I m needing volunteers more than ever and with an aging ham radio volunteer pool, I need to plan on replacements. Get Those new hams in on this.

Thanks

Michael R. Palmer, N9FEB  
Marion County IN Events Coordinator for Ham Radio  
7461 Hague Road, Indianapolis, IN 46256  
(317) 849-3602 home  
(317) 753-8691 cell  
[www.IndyHams.org](http://www.IndyHams.org)

This month we are going to start our series on Profiles of the Members of the GCARC. Hopefully this will give Each member a better insight to what our members do when it comes to the hobby of Amateur Radio.

This month we are going to Profile the President of the GCARC Scott Shepler.

**NAME:** Scott Shepler                      **CALLSIGN:** KC9RAX                      **Licensed Since:** 2009

**What made you become interested in Amateur Radio?** Listening to my brother talk about setting up his station and Helping with his towers.

**When did you become interested in Amateur Radio?** It was late in 2008. I checked out a copy of the tech manual From the Library.

**What are your interest in the hobby?** To this point, working different service events has been what I've spent Most of my time and energy on. I have tinkered with packet and HF.

**What do you see for the future of Amateur Radio?** I believe amateur radio will continue to mingle with computers. But the roots will remain the same.

**What advice would you give to people who are just getting started in the hobby?** Advise....don't be shy. If your Stumped with something, just ask. If the first person you ask is not familiar with your question, it is very likely They know someone who is. There is an ocean of experience available for the asking.

**What was/is your most memorable moment you have had since you have become a ham?** Like most I suppose, My first DX contact. I was working 3<sup>rd</sup> party with Steve and made a contact with a station in Russia. I don't even Remember his call.