



On the Cover

The photo you see on this month's cover is of a station that no longer exists. It is, or was, W9REG, the club station of the Tippecanoe Amateur Radio Association, then located in the local Red Cross headquarters in Lafayette, Indiana. At the controls is Greg Dean, W9NWO, who assures us that (thankfully) *he* still exists.

During its more than 50 years of sharing space with the Red Cross, W9REG was used for quite a bit of emergency and public service communications, including passing message traffic in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In addition, W9WNO, in his Army MARS hat as AAV5ZO, used the club station quite frequently for sending and receiving MARS traffic.

Not long after this photo was taken, the Red Cross moved into a new building ... which had no space for a ham station or ham antennas. "We will eventually build another station," said Dean, "when we get a proper location."

Dean added that his club's situation is typical of the problems associated with having a club station today, and he noted that many Red Cross chapters in Indiana are "starting to divest themselves of amateur radio." That is a curious trend, particularly in light of the recent FCC report (see page 2) calling for greater integration of amateur radio into emergency plans of not only state and local emergency response agencies, but of private organizations—such as the Red Cross—as well.

Greg says he personally has been involved in public service communications for most of the past decade. He spent 30 years in military intelligence, and his last tour of duty—which began soon after this photo was taken—took him to Afghanistan for 14 months. Now retired from the Army, Greg works as a staff technologist for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

(Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)