
CQ BARS

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August 2008

President's Corner

Hello All,

I would like to say Thank You to all that helped in the setup and running of the Hamfest on Sunday, Aug.2nd, and 3rd at Bolingbrook High School. We had 20 hard-working people who devoted their weekend to making this year's Hamfest and State Convention another success, and I want each and every one of them to know how much I appreciate their efforts.

However, I would like to know what happened to the rest of the members during the event? This year we were short of people, and some of our volunteers didn't get relieved at all during the event. I'm very disappointed with the turnout of club members this year. This is the only event we have to make money for the club to run year to year, which benefits the entire club. Therefore, we should have seen pretty much the entire club helping out at the Hamfest, at least for some part of the event. But that didn't happen. I don't know what to think. I have put a lot of effort into this, and a lot of other people did too. But it's hard to run a Hamfest with only 20 people. We ran into the same lack of participation with Field Day, too!

I have tried to bring this club back on its feet with help from the board and participation from the club. I have talked about being a team but it seems there is no team, just /s. Well, there's no / in TEAM. This has to change. The only way our club is going to work is everyone working together! We have several things coming up, and we'll need help with getting the repeaters up, antennas, and getting concrete blocks on the roof for the non-penetrating roof mounts at the hospital so we can get the repeaters back online. Also, we need to put together a communications package for the hospital using Ham Radio in an emergency situation.

Let's all pull up our bootstraps and make this club fun again. With elections are around the corner, now is also the time to think about helping your club by putting your name in for an office!

See you all at the next meeting on August 18th, at 7 PM.

Tom, N9LJY
BARS President

Secretary's Column

It's membership time again. I'm enclosing an application with this newsletter. Please!! Even Life members need to complete and return an application, just to let us know that you're still alive. E-Mail addresses need to be valid to insure that you still receive the newsletter and other special mailings. Also remember that you need to be an official member to vote in the officers elections coming up sooner than you think.

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:00 hours by N9LJY (Tom). Introductions followed. Officers present were: N9VJV (Don) and KB9JLB (Barb). Also present at the meeting were:

KB9LMK	N9AOP	W9WRS
KB9JLB	KA9J	N9OZD
KA9ZJJ	NE9G	KC9MQH
WA9IL	KA9SFW	KC9BST
N9LJY	N9MF	WX9WRN

K9SW N9VJV

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by WA9IL (John) and carried

The Treasurer's report was presented by KB9JLB (Barb). No Approval required.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: No Report

220/440 WA9IL (John) reported the 440 loaner is still available while wanting upon a replacement machine. We need an 'A' licensed electrical engineer to install the electric at the hospital.

Net Control: N9LJY (Tom) reported that N9ZMM (Archie) is looking for more net control operators. Contact him if interested.



2

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported that setup will start at 2 PM Sat (8/2). Breakfast will be on 8/3 at Denny's. Help is going to be needed. A spotter class is going to be available 9-10 AM.

Education: Mo Report.

VE: W9KHX (Dale) reported that he will need VE helpers at the Hamfest.

Field Day: N9LJY (Tom) the results are not available yet.

Public Relations: KA9ZJJ (Marti) reported that press releases for Field Day didn't make it in the newspapers. She will take care of renting signs for the Hamfest.

Skywarn: WX9WRN (Toni) advised everyone to keep ready.

OLD BUSINESS:

N9LJY (Tom) reported that a club roster will be placed on the website for registered members only access. Please send any corrections to the Webmaster. He will forward them to N9VJV (Don),

A motion to close old business was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by KB9JLB (Barb) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

KB9LMK (Dale) reported that he has a CD with pictures taken of the support for the National Guard during the flooding in Quincy. He is willing to show them after a meeting

A motion to close new business was made by KB9JLB (Barb), seconded by KB9LMK (Dale) and carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by KB9JLB (Barb) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

Thursday Night net Statistics courtesy of N9ZMM (Archie)

I can see the end of summer through our number of check-ins. We had a total of 59 check-ins with 4 new check-ins. We are still down from last year at this time but I guess I can't be fussy. Also one of the net nights was called do to bad weather.

The race for the most times checked in is at a three way tie with Bryan (KC9GRH), Joe (KC9ERT), and Bob (N9RAT). Good luck to all three of you hope to give out three awards this year.

With that said I was happy to see our President, Tom (N9LJY) at the number five spot of the top check-ins. With that I have a special challenge with the other Board members, Trustees, and Directors. I would like to see all of them check in at less five times before the end of the year.

And one thing before I go, if you would like to be a Net Controller let me know. It would be nice to have back ups when needed. If you can only do a few times a year that is ok too! Let me know you can by email (N9ZMM@sbcglobal.net) or by phone: 815-600-1639.

73s

Archie Hawley, N9ZMM
*NET Control Coordinator

CQ BARS

E-mails Asking for Personal Information Not from ARRL:

The ARRL has received several reports from ARRL members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information, such as user names and passwords. Please be assured that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL. According to ARRL Information Technology Manager Don Durand, "This is a very crude attempt at phishing, using an easily determined spoof of the originating/return address. There is never a time when we would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords for arrl.net users. There is simply no need to ever do so." If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from ARRL, please do not respond, just delete it.

Submitted by WA9IL from a notice from one of the Yahoo Groups.

This is of interest for those of you whom use the CTA or RTA to get around within the Limits of the City Of Chicago. Be extremely careful using this mode of transportation when in possession of any amateur equipment even if it is in the "off" mode.

Over the past week, I have had several CTA drivers tell me I could not have my transceiver on the bus with me even though it was off. The drivers stated some new "CTA Policy" but could not repeat it verbatim, and could not tell me when it was enacted, nor could they tell me where to find the "policy".

I did a search on the web for this supposed policy and found nothing. I did however, find a post at the "CTA Tattler" blasting cellphone use and the use of cell phones that play MP3's. The "tattler" post refers to a "CTA BAD BEHAVIOR ORDINANCE" called "CTA Ordinance 98126" that does not define what a "Radio" is.

This ordinance just bans the usual behaviors that are unwanted such as gambling, LOUD radio playing, eating, etc. But it does not define what type of radios they are talking about. The Ordinance also does not spell out whether or not radio signal generating equipment such as a handheld radio can be possessed on the bus.

It has been asked to "Throw the radio in the trash" if I wished to board, or to "Find a place to hide it until I come back for it". I have also witnessed over the past week, CTA drivers do the same to cell phone users, which leads the reasonable person to believe that the drivers do not know the difference between the two or are just making things up as they go along.

The past week alone, I have seen CTA drivers tell people to "turn the cellphone off or leave the bus" which also leads me to believe that they have lumped "Radios", "Cellphones", "Lap Top Computers", and "Other Electronics" into the same category.

I was even accused openly by a CTA driver with a bus load of passengers and the driver said "Sir, you can't have a scanner on the bus and listen to people's conversations!" and "possessing a prohibited item". I have been extremely polite to these drivers in return to their "rule enforcement" and have even showed a copy of my license, to which one driver indicated they "didn't care if the president licensed me, I wasn't going to have a radio on the bus."

My radio was turned down almost all the way so only I could hear it and / or even turned off on these occasions. But it's OK for the drivers to have their Bluetooth devices in their ears and talk on a cell phone while they drive, right? I don't see the CTA drivers telling their own supervisors that they can't have their two way radios on the bus or doing likewise to other city personnel who

3

carry two way radios..and they BLAST those radios!

Weather Facts

By our own George Geotsalitis NB9R

What measurements can grave diggers provide?

A key measurement for Hydrologists and other scientists dealing in problems with "soils" is "frost-depth." Since there are no reliable tools, scientists seek advice from the one group who would know. Consequently, the folks who dig graves are routinely consulted.

Why do some people sneeze when they look into the sun?

Looking into the sun can make me (and probably you) sneeze. This phenomenon is, actually, caused by an odd allergy called Allergic Conjunctivitis; which is an inflammation of the lower eyelid that reacts to the ultraviolet portion of the sun's spectrum.

Weather Aloud

If you don't own a NOAA Weather Radio but have broadband access, *Weather Underground* provides a webpage which contains all of the active NOAA weather radio channels nationwide. Just go to the URL shown below and choose the location(s) nearest you to hear the broadcasts on your PC. www.wunderground.com/wxradio/index.html

TextAloud uses voice synthesis to convert text into spoken audio. Listen on your PC or create MP3 or WMA files for use on portable devices like iPods, PocketPCs and CD players. Also available are optional premium voices for a wide variety of accents and languages. www.nextuptech.com

Storm Now

DARC uses a service called Storm Now to provide weather alerts to Pagers and/or Email. If any club member would like to be added to either or both lists, please send your information to skywarn@ameritech.net:

- 1) Wireless service text number (Vendor Specific); e.g., 7085551212@vtext.com), and/or
- 2) Email address

New NOAA (S.A.M.E.) Receiver Installed

You've probably already heard broadcasts thru the new receiver. I'd like to thank Don N9IZU for all his work in researching, obtaining, provisioning and installing the new NOAA *Alert* receiver. The WX200 radio from "Computer Automation Technology" is "rack-mounted" and (dare I say) impervious to "desense." While Don can (and, I'm sure will) give us some details at the next general meeting, I thought I'd provide the URL for those of you that might be interested: www.catauto.com/wx200.html

SKYWARN

The NET of 8/4 was a busy one in many respects. Other than the apparent need for the NWS to update the evolving weather situation every few *minutes*, there was the abundance of stations (37) that checked-in (which is good); however (and ain't there always one of these), better than 50% had never been heard on the Net before and weren't familiar with *our* "check-in" or reporting "needs of the NWS;" which brings me to why I felt it necessary to mention this at all.

CQ BARS

It (and any Net Control, I'm sure) would appreciate it if the Club's membership would (as the situation allows) bring up the Skywarn Website (now on our Homepage) and point folks to the second Radio or Navigation Button titled "Preambles," especially the Spotter Check-In. In this way, even if a station doesn't participate regularly, they can still sound like "they've-been-there-before."

It's very time-consuming for a Net Control to have to, continually, ask for information that should be provided as a matter of course (and in this case, it was waaaay to busy for this to happen).

Thanks for your help in moving "our" NET forward.

George Geotsalitis NB9R
Emergency Communications Coordinator
DuPage Amateur Radio Club
(708) 214-3767 (M)
(708) 354-3920 (H)

From KC9VVT (Pat Ryan) ARRL Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator

OES/IL

please share with trained Skywarn Spotters:

Mounting fuel costs for mobile severe weather spotting, and ground truth verification activities, as well as personal costs for providing disaster intelligence services by ARES mobile units, is understood. Add that a lot of Skywarn groups don't do night spotting any more due to safety concerns by their ESDA or Emergency Manager. Many are not as available during odd hours, due to constraints. Many grow weary of this season's continuing needs.

Tom KA9QPN, our Section Manager, reminds all that we can still observe out a window or on a deck/patio, and still report.

It adds that amateur radio is recognized for our long service to weather spotting. and that we can follow up with later damage observations on usual necessary travel, even after storm, for the many NOAA National Weather Service local Weather Forecasting Offices serving Illinois.

Delayed reports may always be called in to NWS local WFO, or reported by any available means for ground truth observations, or via eSpotter, and is essential for plotting and reporting damage areas in the aftermath of the weather events. It isn't just amateur radio that serves us well, so have and use other communications means, too.

Accurate rain, wind, hail, and damage reports are always needed, even if they don't result in a warning issue, and may reduce false alarms.

In any case, request the best possible support to your local NWS WFO, and to those volunteer amateur radio operators at the NWS so that they get the critical information when they come up on your local Skywarn frequency.

Recent concern expressed to our Section Manager is that NWS local office amateur operator volunteers desperately needs accurate and timely reports for ground truth and verification, for even non-tornadic events like today's Derecho, or straight line wind.

Encourage your local Weather Forecasting Office to publish their amateur radio spotter network and YOUR local frequencies on the

web, such as Quad Cities Area Local Skywarn Network <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dvn/?n=hamradio>

Multiple outdated and uncorrected maps and tables still exist on the Internet, but the official source should be your local Weather Forecasting Office and your DEC and local EC and Net Control Stations reporting local Skywarn nets.

All ARES operators should have the frequency information on their local ARES and Skywarn nets on the Emergency Reference Information kept at their operating positions, and loaded into memory of their radios, too. Battery backup, alternate repeaters and simplex relay plans should be practices, and written for all.

SITREPS or situation reports on ARES activations as they happen are always welcome from EC and OES, as well as summaries of service provided in the end of the month ARES reports by local EC.

And, as this QST was in the works, here is why:

Storm Damage Survey for Rock Island and Northwest Henry County, Illinois confirms this was a killer storm, with EF-1 wind speeds. http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=dvn&storyid=16867&source=0

Destructive Straight Line Winds Sweep Across Eastern Iowa and Northwest Illinois Monday Morning The severe thunderstorms moved into northwest Iowa very early Monday morning (July 21, 2008). As the severe thunderstorms continued moving southeast they further intensified and produced widespread and destructive straight-line winds of 60 to 90 mph through east central into southeast Iowa, and northwest into central Illinois. The highest measured wind gust was 94 mph in Moline, IL. Other measured wind gusts included 84 mph in Princeton, IL and 72 mph in Mount Pleasant, IA. These extreme winds produced a large swath of wind damage 20 to 40 miles wide comprised largely of downed trees and power lines. Power was knocked out to over 130,000 residents in the Quad Cities. This type of long lived and destructive wind storm is referred to as a derecho. http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=dvn&storyid=16866&source=0

Keep up the fine business, and help where ever and whenever you may. It is much appreciated.

by 73 de Pat Ryan KC6VVT
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HIRAM PERCY MAXIM'S TELEGRAPH KEY RETURNS TO ARRL HQ

At the ARRL Board of Director's meeting this past weekend, the telegraph key that once belonged to Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was returned to ARRL Headquarters. According to ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, the key had been in the collection of the Antique Wireless Association's Electronic Communication Museum near Rochester, New York for more than 20 years.

Craigie said that the AWA decided to return Maxim's key to the organization he co-founded almost 100 years ago. At the ARRL Atlantic Division Convention in May 2008, the museum's former curator, Ed Gable, K2MP, presented the key to Craigie and Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR. Craigie and Edgar then presented the key to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN,

CQ BARS

and ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, on Friday, July 18.

"The key will find a prominent place in the League's collection of historical artifacts," Craigie said. "The Old Man's key has come home".

DUTCH AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITE NOW LIVE

The linear transponder aboard the new Dutch OSCAR 64 satellite <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/22/10117/?nc=1> (otherwise known as Delfi-C3 <http://www.delfic3.nl/>) is now open for CW and SSB operation.

The spacecraft boots into transponder mode whenever it is in full sunlight. Ground controllers will briefly switch the satellite to either "basic" or "science" configuration once every two weeks; otherwise, the linear transponder will be the default mode. The transponder uplink passband is from 435.530-435.570 MHz with a downlink passband from 145.880-145.930 MHz. The transponder CW beacon can be heard at 145.870 MHz.

Delfi C-3 was successfully launched April 28, 2008 from India aboard a Polar launch vehicle <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/28/10067/?nc=1> and was successfully commissioned, currently transmitting telemetry on the 2 meter amateur band. In addition to its 2 meter downlink, Delfi C-3 has an uplink on the 70 cm band.

The satellite was developed by a team of some 60 students and faculty members from various polytechnic schools in The Netherlands. Delfi C-3 carries two experiments -- one involving thin film solar cells developed by Dutch Space, and an autonomous wireless Sun sensor from the Dutch Government Research Institute (TNO). E-mail reports are welcome info@delfic3.nl.

From Neil Ormos N9NL District Emergency Coordinator Amateur Radio Emergency Service Cook County/Chicago

Tinley Park Emergency Management Agency will host an Amateur Radio Technician class license Exam Preparation Course on Thursdays starting September 11th, 2008 from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. There will be six classroom sessions and a final review session. The cost is \$35 per student for course materials. The Hamfesters Radio Club, the Suburban Technical Amateur Radio System (STARS), and the Tri-Town Radio Club are all cosponsoring this class.

For more complete information on the class, please see the official announcement here:

<http://pages.ripco.net/~ormos/tpema-technician-class-0809a.pdf>

For further information or to register, please contact:

Gregg Rosenberg AB9MZ
ab9mz@arrl.net
708 267 6664 Cell
708 444 2690 Office (9:00AM until 9:00PM)
708 444 2697 Fax

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.