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# CQ BARS

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## President's Corner

Well, Our Prez is nowhere to be found, but here's the next best thing - an article by our faithful Vice Prez:

Since this is the last newsletter of 2003, it seems like a good time to reflect on the accomplishments and events that took place over the past year. We had a very busy year and achieved many things. To begin on a sad note we lost one of our most dedicated, members and past President Joe Cassata (KA9CAI). He will be missed by all of us that had the pleasure of working with him to make Bars the success that it has become. Thanks Joe you were an asset to the club and will be missed.

Now on to the brighter happenings. In about the March time frame we moved our meeting location from fire station #4 to fire station # 5, which gave us a larger more comfortable meeting room.

This year was a very unusual year as far as weather was concerned. We had a very active spring this year as far as severe weather was concerned. Many thanks go out to those of you that participated in the skywarn nets and forwarded important information to be passed to the National Weather Service. There were a couple of times the meteorologist actually issued warnings just on the information amateur radio skywarn volunteers provided. They were well impressed with the amateur Radio operators and there efforts. Thanks to all participated in those nets.

Thanks to Tom (N9LJY) and Bob (WG9L) co- chairman for field day, and of course all of the members who participated; Field day was a huge success. BARS score was a total of 4,980 points. This placed us 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation and #2 in nine land out of 81, 5a entries.

I think we deserve a pat on the back for our efforts and once again thanks goes out to all who participated.



Next came the Hamfest. Once again thanks to Tom (N9LJY) for chairing the BARS Hamfest. If it weren't for him and all the members who participated the hamfest would not have been as successful as it was. I still hear good things from the vendors as to how we treat them.

All these efforts have given our club a lot of local and national recognition. Let's keep up the good work.

Along the way we have made many new friends and encouraged quite a few new people to get started in our hobby. Let's continue these efforts into 2004 and make it even better for everyone. Looking back on our accomplishments we can all be proud of being members of The Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society.

On behalf of the Officers and Board Members, We want to wish you and your families a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

73 DE Phil NW9V

## Secretary's Column

I, too want to add my thanks and appreciation for all those who worked to make our events successful. Remember, this is YOUR club and the contributions made by each of you are meaningful to the success of our organization. Without you, the individual member, each helping and working according to your abilities the club cannot succeed and grow.

Please note the time change for the meetings. Beginning with the January 2004 meeting we will be meeting at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM. Hopefully this will allow more time for special programs and after the meeting socializing. Let's face it, the actual meetings are downright boring most of the time. However, when we have a special program like the one last month (thanks, Bob) that can really spark up the interest. Any ideas or volunteers for future programs are more than welcome.

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

### Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:30 hours by KA9SFW (Jim), President. Introductions followed. Officers present were: NW9V (Phil), KB9JLB (Barb), and N9VJV (Don). Also present at the meeting were:

NW9V	KA9J	KB9JLB
KA9SFW	KC9EWY	KC9ESE
KA9ZAW	KC9BST	N9OZD
KA9ZJJ	KB4NEN	WG9L
N9VJV	WA9IL	

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the last month's issue of CQ BARS was made by WG9L (Bob) and seconded by KA9ZAW (Norm). The motion was carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by KB9JLB (Barb). A motion to accept the report as presented was made by KA9ZJJ (Marti), seconded by WA9IL(John), and carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: KA9J (Frank) reported that the repeater was working file.

220/440: WA9IL (John) reported that the 220 machine was down for repairs. He is redoing the power setup. The 440 machine is working fine.

Net Control: KA9J (Frank) reported that non-members are conducting the net. They are representing themselves as BARS when they really are not. They need to be reminded that their dues need to be paid.

Hamfest: N9VJV (Don) reported that there is still no progress with the date for next year. Hopefully more information will be available before the next meeting.

Education: NW9V (Phil) reported that we are still hunting for volunteers to administer the video course that we purchased. The cost to the students will be \$29.95 for the book, which also includes a CD. The course consists of 3 videos...A volunteer is needed to conduct the classes.. He has a Commodore 64 code course that he will get running and available.

VE: KB9JLB (Barb) reported that. the next session will be 12/20 at Station 5 9 AM to noon.

Field Day: KB9JLB (Barb) reported that she would be applying for the permit.

Public Relations: No Report. KA9ZJJ (Marti) volunteered to take it.

Skywarn: NW9V (Phil) reported that it's been a busy year but has quieted down recently..

Misc.: No Report

### OLD BUSINESS:

A motion to change the meeting time from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM effective Jan 2004 was made by WG9L (Bob), seconded by KA9ZJJ (Marti) and carried by a voice vote.

A motion to donate \$25 to the ARRL for the BPL fund was made by KA9ZJJ (Marti), seconded by WA9IL (John) and carried by a voice vote.

A motion to close Old Business was made by WA9IL (John) and seconded by KA9ZJJ (Marti). The motion was carried.

### NEW BUSINESS:

KB9JLB (Barb) presented the tree decorating opportunity at the village hall. WH9L (Bob) KA9ZJJ (Marti) and KB9JLB (Barb) will be decorating on 12/2 Or 12/3 using radio parts as ornaments.

KA9SFW (Jim) discussed the annual awards and ballots were distributed for the presentation at the Dec meeting.

The budget was presented. A motion to accept was made by WG9L (Bob), seconded by KA9ZJJ (Marti), and carried by a voice vote.

Nw9v (Phil) reminded us about the NWS Special Event station on 12/5-12/6.

With no additional new business items raised, KA9J (Frank) moved to close New Business; KB9JLB (Barb) seconded; and the motion was carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by KA9ZJJ (Marti), seconded by KC9BST (Lisa), and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don, N9VJV  
Secretary

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

A vote was taken at the November meeting and it was decided to change the meeting time from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM beginning with the January 2004 meeting. Please change your Palm Pilots, calendar programs, alarm clocks, etc.

### NEW GENERAL CLASS QUESTION POOL RELEASED

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Radio General class (Element 3) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2004, and must be used to generate all General written examinations administered on or after that date.

"The pool has been expanded to 432 questions," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, a member of the Question Pool Committee, who notes that all subelements grew slightly. "The largest increase in questions this time around was in our Operating Procedures and Amateur Radio Practices subelements," he said. The General class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols.

The new Element 3 question pool is available on the ARRL Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>> in Adobe PDF and ASCII text format. It includes all questions and answers relating to Element 3.

The Question Pool Committee now is turning its attention to developing an outline for an updated Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool, which will be revised over the next 24 months, Jahnke said. It will go into effect July 1, 2006. The deadline to submit input to the Amateur Extra question pool syllabus is May 1, 2004.

In addition to Jahnke, members of the Question Pool Committee are Chairman Scotty Neustadter, W4WW, Fred Maia, W5YI, and John Johnston, W3BE. Commenters may address specific Element 3 questions as well as inputs to the Element 3 syllabus and question pool to the Question Pool Committee via e-mail <qpc@arrl.org>.

### UO-14 REACHES THE END OF THE TRAIL

UO-14 has officially ended its long run as an Amateur Radio satellite, although it continues to transmit telemetry and respond to commands from Earth. The Mission Control Centre at the Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) Center for Satellite Engineering Research announced this week that the venerable and popular bird "has reached the end of its mission after nearly 14 years in orbit." Launched in 1990, UoSAT-OSCAR-14 pioneered the PACSAT communication concept as the first 9.6 kbps Amateur Radio data communications satellite, although it became best known in recent years as an FM "easy sat."

"Since launch, UO-14 has completed over 72,000 orbits and as many charge/discharge cycles of its on-board NiCd battery," said AMSAT-UK Chairman Martin Sweeting, G3YJO. "However recently one of the battery cells has become exhausted and can no longer support continuous operation of the repeater." Sweeting said UO-14's transmitter shuts down shortly after it is commanded "on" due to undervoltage, so the microsatellite's mission has been terminated.

"Thank you UO-14 for your long service!" Sweeting concluded.

AMSAT-NA Board Member Bruce Paige, KK5DO, an enthusiastic UO-14 user, called the AMSAT-UK announcement "sad news." He said the loss of UO-14 leaves amateurs with SO-41 and SO-50 as the only two LEO FM voice satellites. He noted, however, that the planned 2004 launch of OSCAR-ECHO would help to fill the void. OSCAR-ECHO is set to launch next March 31.

The popular and heavily used FM satellite's repeater quit working in August, but hope remained within the amateur satellite community that UO-14 somehow could be revived. Ground controller Chris Jackson, G7JPN, at one point was able to reset the satellite, but he later determined that UO-14 had suffered a primary power system failure that was causing the spacecraft to shut down during some eclipses.

During its active lifetime, UO-14 served several roles. After some 18 months as a PACSAT, UO-14 was switched to non-amateur frequencies for humanitarian use by Volunteers In Technical Assistance, which used it for messaging into Africa. After the store-and-forward communications computer proved no longer able to perform that task, UO-14 was turned back to amateur use as a single-channel FM voice repeater.

UO-14 again served a humanitarian role in early 2001 when hams assisting with earthquake relief operations in the Indian State of Gujarat took advantage of the satellite to provide communication from the stricken region.

The beauty of UO-14 was that it required minimal gear to make contacts--typically 5 W and modest antennas would do the trick.

## CQ BARS

Operators with dualband handheld transceivers and "rubber duckie" antennas often could make QSOs via UO-14.

### FCC THREATENS CONVICTED KILLER' S HAM TICKET ON "CHARACTER QUALIFICATIONS"

The FCC has issued an Order to Show Cause to a Texas Amateur Radio licensee who's now serving a 32-year prison sentence for killing his wife in 1996. The FCC's show cause order released November 21 is the opening bell in a hearing process that could end with the revocation of the Advanced class license of Roger Thomas Scaggs, W5EBC. He must indicate within 30 days whether he plans to appear at a hearing on the matter to show cause why his license should not be revoked.

"Mr Scaggs' murder conviction raises very serious questions as to whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be and to remain a Commission licensee and whether his license should be revoked," the FCC said. At one time reserved for assessing the fitness of broadcast applicants and licensees, the FCC's "character qualifications" standard to date has extended into the Amateur Radio arena only in a handful of cases. The Order asserts that the Commission has "consistently applied" character qualifications to Amateur Radio Service applicants. Three of the four examples it cites to support that claim involved telecommunications-related offenses, and one involved indecent assault upon and corruption of minors.

The Order cites §312(a)(2) of the Communications Act that says the FCC may revoke any license on the basis of "conditions coming to the attention of the Commission which would warrant it in refusing to grant a license or permit on the original application." Scaggs, 64, apparently was able to renew his ham ticket in the spring of 1998--the same year in which he was later convicted of murdering his wife, Penny. The FCC granted Scaggs' application for an administrative update--apparently a change of address from Austin to Gatesville, Texas. His license expires in 2008.

The FCC reportedly only recently became aware of Scaggs' murder conviction, which could keep him behind bars at least until he's 75.

Assuming that Scaggs or his attorney indicates that he will appear for or be represented at a formal hearing, the FCC will follow up with a Hearing Designation Order. Held before an administrative law judge, the hearing would consider evidence concerning the effect of Scaggs' felony conviction on his qualifications to remain an FCC licensee and, in light of the evidence, whether his license should be revoked.

Some articles in this issue courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter.