
CQ BARS

Volume XX Issue 03

March 2003

President's Corner

Jim, I've got an old typewriter out in my truck. See me after the meeting !!

Secretary's Column

Another short column this month. There's much more important news to be reported.

Some folks might not have missed the article in last month's newsletter about the change of meeting location. We've moved to Bolingbrook Fire Station #5 on Rodeo Drive. See the map in this issue for the directions.

I haven't had any volunteers for the 'Get to Know' your Members' section of this newsletter. Who's willing?? Can anyone say DRAFT??

Also, I'm looking for things to put in a 'Coming Events' section of this newsletter. Please let me know what's coming up. I can't put it in if I don't know about it

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	KA9CAI	K9JTB
KA9J	KB9JLB	WX9WRN
AB9EE	N9OZD	KA9ZJJ



WB9PDD	KA9SFW	K9GHX
W9KHX	N9NPP	N9QOB
KB9OEX	N9VJV	KB9LMK

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the last month's issue of CQ BARS was made by AB9EE (Bob) and seconded by K9GHX (Jim). 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 WX9WRN (Toni), and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: KA9J (Frank) reported that the repeater was still using the temporary machine.

220/440: WA9IL (John) reported that the 440 machine was temporarily down because of burnt connectors.

Net Control: N9QOB (Ron) reported that he wants to see more checkins.

Hamfest: No Report.

Education: No Report.

VE: W9KHX (Dale) reported that the next session will be 3/19. This session will be held at 611 W. Fort Biggs Drive in Plainfield High School Room 204. 9 AM to Noon. Cost will be \$12.

Field Day: No Report.

Public Relations: No Report.

Skywarn: N9YJE (Toni) reported that National Severe Weather Week is 3/2 to 3/8. She's going to have a practice net. Our Skywarn class is 3/1 9 AM to noon at Station #5.

Misc.: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

A motion to close Old Business was made by WX9WRN (Toni) and seconded by W9KHX (Dale). The motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

WX9WRN (Toni) reported that she will be reviewing disaster supply kits at the next meeting

With no additional new business items raised, K9GHX (Jim) moved to close New Business; KA9ZJJ (Marti) seconded; and the motion was carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by WB9PDD (Stan), seconded by KA9CAI (Joe), and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

ARES News

ARRL Emergency Communications course registration: Registration opens Monday, March 10, 12:01 AM EST (0500 UTC), for the on-line Level II Emergency Communications course (EC-002). Registration remains open through the March 15-16 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first. Class begins Tuesday, March 25. Thanks to a recent grant, the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 50 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <http://www.arrl.org/cce> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, dmiller@arrl.org; 860-594-0340.

Emergency Communications Level I course registration information: March registration is closed for the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level I on-line course (EC-001) sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). All available seats have been filled. Registration for the next available Level I class opens Monday, April 7, at 12:01 AM EST. Senior amateurs are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Those considering enrolling in the Level I class are urged to take the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium WebMentor sample course to familiarize themselves with the course template and tools used in all ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) on-line courses. Sign up for e-mail registration reminders for all C-CE courses by sending a request to prereg@arrl.org.

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To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <http://www.arrl.org/cce> and the C-CE Links found there. Address your Emergency Communications course questions to ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, dmiller@arrl.org.

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT NOW IN BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE

Courtesy of The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 now has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. Idaho Sen Michael Crapo introduced the Senate version of the bill, S 537, on March 6. Original cosponsors were Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID). Florida Rep Michael Bilirakis put the latest House version of the bill, HR 713, into the legislative hopper on February 12. The measures, an ARRL initiative, have been introduced twice before in Congress. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, believes this third time could be the proverbial charm.

"Actually, this is the best opportunity that we've ever had to get this bill through, because more members of Congress than ever before are paying attention to ham radio now," said Haynie, who's been in Washington this week to talk Amateur Radio with lawmakers and regulators. In addition, Haynie pointed out, the House and Senate will be considering major spectrum reform bills, and the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act could serve as an amendment to that sort of legislation.

HR 713 and S 537 are aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The legislation would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere.

Haynie encouraged members of the Amateur Radio community to contact their senators and representatives to urge their cosponsorship, which lends support to legislation while it's in committee. The House bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; the Senate bill will be considered by the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. In addition, although more members of Congress than ever understand and appreciate the benefits of Amateur Radio, some may remain reluctant to sign onto a technical piece of legislation without some indication of support from their own constituents.

"The League is doing all it can, but we know the success or failure will be in the hands of the amateur community," said Haynie, who pledged the ARRL's continuing efforts to get the bill enacted. "Letters and e-mails are the key to getting legislation passed."

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A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>>. Those writing their lawmakers are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail <specbill03@arrl.org>.

The measures would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur-Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands" that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

The text of HR 713 and S 537 is available (or will soon be available) via the Thomas Web site <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>.

AT THE REQUEST OF THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES THIS SPECIAL BULLETIN IS SENT TO ALL EMCOMMWEST SUBSCRIBERS

Homeland Security Threat Advisory: Suspicious Activity

We have received information from APCO (Associated Public Safety Communications Officers, Inc.) members that they have received numerous calls of a suspicious nature from people describing themselves as college students performing research. The questions have included specific communications infrastructure location information requests. Additionally, there have been reports of people recording and photographing public safety communications towers.

While there has been no evidence to suggest these are not legitimate actions, APCO advises you to pay close attention to such activity and report anything suspicious according to your local Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). APCO further advises not to release information to persons of unknown origin at this or any other time. Additionally, APCO recommends that you re-evaluate your internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for procedures on handling these types of calls to ensure this issue is addressed specifically for communications related information during this time of heightened security.

NORTH SHORE RADIO CLUB - HAMFEST

The all indoor event, formerly known as LAMARSfest, will be held Sunday March 23 from 8 AM to 2 PM at Lake County Fairgrounds, Routes 45 and 120, Grayslake, IL. Admission to the event is \$5 for a double-stub prize ticket in advance or \$7 for a single-stub prize ticket at the door. Seller' s tables are \$20 -\$25. Parking is free. Tickets and tables can be ordered on-line at www.lightwriters.com/nsrc/NS9RCfest.htm

To learn more, call 847/291-4160; or check www.ns9rc.org for ticket and table forms and more information.

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ARLB022 ARRL Expresses Concerns About Ham Radio Impact of 70-cm Changes

The ARRL said two FCC-proposed actions could negatively affect Amateur Radio in comments filed in ET Docket 02-305. One would substantially expand the geographical area of power limitations on 70 cm. The other would deploy National Weather Service wind-profiler radars in the 448-450 MHz segment.

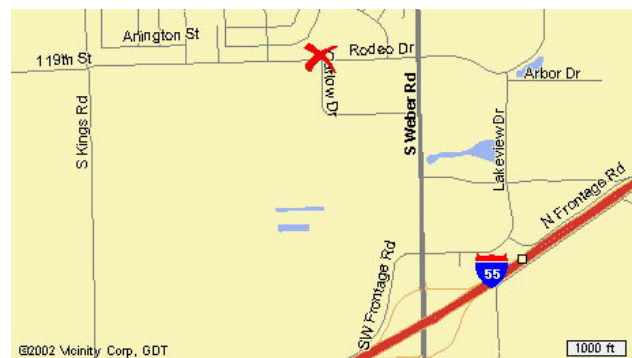
In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) late last fall, the FCC proposed on behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to vastly increase the size of the geographical area in New Mexico and western Texas where amateurs in the 70 cm band would be limited to 50 W PEP to protect military radiolocation service operations.

The proposed region has 67 affected repeaters. ARRL said the proposed area is ' ' in most respects far beyond line-of-sight paths to any military facilities.' '

The ARRL asked the FCC and NTIA to cooperatively evaluate the restriction, which could also affect weak-signal operations, to determine whether it is overly broad.

Concerning the wind profilers, the League said it had understood that the National Weather Service, which operates the radars, would notify ARRL of their locations as selected.' ' Ideally,' ' the League said, ' ' since the amateur repeaters are incumbent in the band now, the National Weather Service should select sites that minimize the effect on those repeaters.' '

The complete text of the ARRL' s comments is available on the FCC Web Site.



Barb: Somewhere there's a mistake in here just waiting for you!!