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# CQ BARS

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## President's Corner

Well there are only 46 days 3 hours ten minutes and 9 seconds until this years Field Day begins, but who's counting. We still are in need of Band Chairman and setup people. I need to know how many helpers we will have on Friday so I can get an accurate "Lobster Count".

Tom Ballard and I met with Fire Chief Chuck Peterson and Battalion Commander Rich Mierop last Thursday regarding the usage of the new radio room at Fire Station # 5. I believe a solution to everyone's concerns was found.

The main reason the Chief was wanting to limit the number of operators was because of security reasons. The new radio room is within the secured area of the fire station where controlled substances are stored for the paramedics use.

We asked if there was another space outside of the secured area that could be used instead. The answer was yes, and the new radio room will be in the room adjacent to the West public meeting room that we now use for our meetings. The Fire Department will make arrangements to set up a counter and move the cables for all of the radios to this new location.

Eight people will be given key card access to the Fire Station and Keys to the new Radio Room. The Chief doesn't care how many people we have in the new Radio Room once we have gained access because it is now outside of the secured area.

This solution seems to benefit everyone. Thanks to all who have worked with the City and the Fire Department to help bring this command center to a reality.



The Barbecue picnic for Joe KA9CAI will be Friday, June 14th at his house. More info will be forwarded via E-Mail.

We still need a volunteer to spearhead group to take down Joe's Tower and Antennas.

73  
Jim KA9SFW

## Secretary's Column

Another short column this month. I Love it when articles are contributed by our membership Thank you to all who contributed!! Also I want to add my thanks to KA9J (Frank) and WD9AKO (Willie) for their work on the 2 Meter machine. As most of you know, that machine is not owned by the club, but has been available for our use for many years. Please let Frank and Willie know how much we appreciate it by helping support that machine.

Hamfest is getting close!! We've got the location, we've got the flyers, we've got the advance tickets. You've guessed it - we now need volunteers to DISTRIBUTE those flyers and SELL those tickets!! Please see N9LJY (Tom) for flyers and me (N9VJV) for the tickets.

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:

|        |       |        |
|--------|-------|--------|
| KB9JLB | KA9J  | WB9RIT |
| AB9EE  | W9KHX | KA9ZAW |

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N9AOP AB9EF N9BY  
KA9ZJJ N9OZD WB9PDD  
WA9L WG9L KC9BST  
NW9V WX9WRN N9VJV  
KB9OEX KB9JWH

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the last month's issue of CQ BARS was made by KB9JLB (Barb) and seconded by W9KHX (Dale). The motion was carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by KB9JLB (Barb). A motion to accept the report as presented was made by W9KHX (Dale), seconded by KB9OEX (Elden), and carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: KA9J (Frank) reported that the repeater was still using the temporary machine. The installation of the new equipment is planned for 4/22. The phone patch is still down. Support is needed. See Frank if interested.

220/440: WA9IL (John) reported that the machines are working fine. The PL is still on the 440 machine.

Net Control: No Report.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) has flyers and vendor letter addresses. N9VJV (Son) has tickets. See them if you need either..

Education: NW9V (Phil) reported that we now have the technical course that the club decided to purchase. 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..

VE: W9KHX (Dale) reported that the last session saw 14 Techs, 1 General, and 1 grandfathered General. The next session will be 2629. Immediately after Field Day at Veterans Woods. Cost will be \$12.

Field Day: NW9V (Phil) reported that we still need band chairmen and help for setup/takedown. WG9L (Bob) is co-chairman. WX9WRN (Toni) volunteered to take the 2M/6M Chair. KA9SFW (Jim) reported that this year's best meal will be on Fri evening.

Public Relations: KB9OEX (Elden) reported that the web site has been updated..

Skywarn: N9YJE (Toni) reported even though things have been quiet we still need to keep aware and ready.

Misc.: No Report.

### OLD BUSINESS:

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WG9L (Bob) gave an update on his DX Packet cluster, He and KB9OEX (Elden) have gotten it up and running.

A motion to close Old Business was made by KB9ZJJ (Marti) and seconded by WX9WRN (Toni). The motion was carried.

### NEW BUSINESS:

KA9SFW (Jim) reported that volunteers were needed to help dismantle Joe's tower and antennas. Please call him if willing.

KB9JLB (Barb) reported that flowers had been sent for Joe and a thank you note had been received.

WX9WRN (Toni) distributed the village Fire and ESDA operating protocol.

N9AOP (Art), representing the Will County RACES, asked if club members would be willing to participate in the event of a major disaster. The general consensus was YES.

With no additional new business items raised, KA9ZJJ (Marti) moved to close New Business; WG9L (Bob) seconded; and the motion was carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by KC9BST (Lisa), seconded by AB9EF (Don), and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don, N9VJV  
Secretary

### 2 Meter Repeater Upgrade

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Willie (WD9AKO) and I installed the new transmitter/receiver unit in the 147.33 repeater. The repeater has been operating with a mobile rig's transmitter being used as a temporary setup since last fall. The new module has about 37 watts of transmitter output, and the receiver portion is more sensitive and has much better intermod rejection than either of our old receivers. A couple of days after we installed the new equipment, Barb (KB9JLB) and I were traveling south on I-55. With 50 watts into a 1/4 wave mobile antenna, I was able to bring up and hear the repeater from as far south as Bloomington (about 105 miles). Obviously, there was a slight band opening, but this appeared much better than we'd become used to. On the way home 4 days later, I tried it for the first time near Dwight (about 50 miles) and when it came up, it was about S3.

With the new setup, there is another difference. The old transmitter had 2 power levels, 5 watts and 25 watts output. The repeater had been configured to switch to 5 watts when it was operating on the storage battery because 120 VAC wasn't available. This conserved battery life and reduced transmitter heat when the 120 VAC fan wasn't operating. The new unit doesn't have this feature, and when operating from the storage battery still has about 25 watts output. This means it will draw more

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current and deplete the battery sooner, and it would also get too hot without a cooling fan. We added a 12 volt fan to prevent overheating. We know the repeater is on battery power when the CW messages are heard at 10 wpm. During battery operation, please limit extended repeater use. If the CW messages seem just a little slower than normal, it means that we had a power failure, but it has been restored. When I hear this, I manually reset the CW speed to it's normally setting. The repeater should still operate for about 5 days without 120 VAC power, but if you notice 10 wpm CW messages for more than an hour or two, please give Willie or I a telephone call.

Hopefully most of the problems we've all had using the repeater have been solved, and with the intermod problem cured everybody will monitor the system more.

Willie and I want to once again thank the club for it's financial help with the upgrade. If anybody wants to support the repeater or subscribe to autopatch, please talk to me at a club meeting.

It wasn't part of the upgrade, but I've noticed that some of the newer users are having problems bringing the repeater up because of it's 'nose'. The nose was implemented to keep the repeater from responding to noise pulses. After the repeater has been idle for over 45 seconds, it ignores the first 2 ½ seconds of carrier. All you have to do is, the first time the repeater is brought up, key you rig, count to 3, and then start talking. After this, repeater will come up with no delay, unless it's unused for over 45 seconds.

Frank---KA9J

#### **To the members of the Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society**

The Plainfield Radio League would like to thank the BARS group for hosting their April VE session at the Plainfield High School. The PRL had a tech. class over the winter and 12 students made it to the VE session and 10 passed. Including one who passed element 1 and another that passed element 3. I would like to thank the VE's that were there for all their hard work and dedication to amateur radio. If there is anything that the PRL can assist the Bars group with in the future please feel free to call on us. Once again thank you. 73

Tom Kulasik KB9WOU  
President PRL

#### **Level 1 Emergency Communications Training** **By Bob Cockream AB9EE**

After our April meeting a few of us stayed around to discuss the need for another class to train communicators for the club. We talked about level 1 and level 2 classes and about times and dates. As usual there was no clear consensus on when everyone could be available including

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myself. After some thought on the matter an idea hit me like a ton of bricks, why not have the classes using amateur radio, DUH! It would allow many people to monitor the discussions and maybe spark some interest in some who weren't sure they wanted to take the class. This would also increase the use of the 2 meter repeater (which is way too silent these days). It would give flexibility to people who may not be able to drive to a class due to prior commitments but maybe can participate while staying home watching the kids etc. Some may even be able to participate while at work. Details of the program will need to be worked out but here is a rough draft.

We meet on the bars repeater 1 or 2 nights per week. We cover 2 chapters per training net. There may be some things I will require to be sent either email to me or snail mail for those who do not have email. If need be we could meet prior to the regular bars meeting that month for anything that needs to be done in person. Each person will be required to attend every net or make up a chapter if they need to miss it. We do a Monday night training net and possibly start early or stay later to help some one who missed the previous week. You will be required to attend at least 80% of the nets in order for me to pass you and allow you to take the final. There will be other instructors running some of the nets including Rob Sobkoviak K9NYO who is the NE District Emergency Coordinator and has already offered his time. I am sure I can count on others who have completed level 1 training already to assist.

This course will cost each person \$10.00 for the test and \$10.00 for the Book. If you do not already have a copy of the Level 1 Manual it will be required. I will order these at one time but I require all monies to me prior to the order. Maybe the Bars Club will want to do something to help members with this? Those that took the course before received a full refund from the ARRL but this did not include the manual and you must be an ARRL member to go that route. You can still sign up and take the course online but it is very hard to get in. By doing this way we have no requirement except that you be a licensed amateur radio operator. If we do this we will schedule a test date of June 21<sup>st</sup> 2003 at station 5 considering we already have the room for that day and it has been vacated by the VE session since were doing VE testing at field day.

If there are any questions, comments, or suggestions please feel free to email them to me at [AB9EE@arrl.net](mailto:AB9EE@arrl.net)  
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