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# Q Q B A R S

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## President's Corner

The election results are in and I would like to congratulate those members who have been elected to serve on the next year's board. They are as follows: President Dale (KB9LMK), Vice President Mike (KC9GHB), Treasure Jason (KB9JHV) and Secretary Don (N9VJV). Once again Congratulations to All! It is really good to see the amount of members attending our monthly meetings. This being my last monthly newsletter article as president I would like everyone to know that it has been a pleasure to act in this capacity. I hope I have exceeded everyone's expectations in bringing the club back together. I could not have done it if it were not for your help.

It is great to see our members volunteering for different activates once again. Ron, (N9QOB) for example sponsored the November Sweepstakes Contest This past weekend. It will be interesting to see how our club effort did in the contest. Hopefully someone will follow in Ron's footsteps and offer to sponsor the Ten-Meter Contest in December. Tom (N9LJY) has offered to chair both our Field Day effort and Hamfest. Thanks to the both of you. Be prepared to nominate a club member for one of the three awards we present at the December meeting. They are Achievement, Service and Ham of the year. We are still looking for a member to volunteer to write an article about his or her profile.

Don't forget to keep Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> open so we can assist with the setup of the stations at the National Weather Service so we can operate the W9S special event station. There are several other clubs that will be attending and operating, but BARS has always had the mot hams there. We will be operating from 0000 UTC Friday night until 2400 UTC Saturday night December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We hope to be operating several stations. 144,440,20,40,80, with various modes CW,SSB,PSK3!, and Echolink. There will also be an open house and Hams are permitted to bring their families for a tour of the facility. Come on out and meet some of the other fellow hams from various clubs. You are not required to operate if you don't want to. We do however need loggers so perhaps that might interest you.

If you have never had the opportunity to see the facility it is pretty interesting. To get there is pretty easy to. Coming from the north you can take RT53 south to Renwick Road. Go west (turn right) on Renwick road and continue on about a mile until you see the



windsock (on the north side of Renwick road) There is also a sign for the National Weather Service. Turn right on the road just after the windsock and follow the road until it ends. When you reach that point you will be sitting in the parking lot of the National Weather Service.

73 DE NW9V

I can not start a new year without saying thank you to the officers and directors who have served us in the past. I don't know how long Barb Denk KB9JLB has been our treasurer, but I can not remember who had the job before her, and I've been a member of the club for more than just a few years. Toni Hamilton, WX9WRN will continue to lead the Skywarn efforts in our area.

I am happy to say that the officers have asked our immediate past President Phil Rittenhouse, NW9V and current Director Frank Denk, KA9J to stay on as Directors. Both have accepted, much to my joy, as they have many years of club experience which I am sure will be of great benefit to the newly elected officers.

As I see it, the Officers, Trustee and Board of Directors are now in place. The committees have chairmen. The only thing missing is you. Where do you fit into the club? While we are fortunate to have some really dedicated people, it is time to give them a break before they get burned out. While some of the committees can be a "one man show", most of them could use some extra help.

It really is true; you only get out of membership what you put into it. Remember, if everyone does a little, a lot gets done.

See you at the next meeting.

Dale KB9LMK

## Secretary's Column

I received a very interesting e-Mail just before last month's meeting. It was from a ham here in Bolingbrook. It seems that he felt he was getting too 'old and shaky to solder' and had a lot of assorted electronic parts that he wanted to find a good home for. He asked if he could donate them to the club to be distributed free to anyone who was interested in building projects. To make a long story short I went to his house and picked them up. I was astounded at the quantity and variety of parts that he had. Anyone who is interested in building just bring me your parts list and whatever is in the assortment it's yours. If it isn't there the chances are that you don't need it. You also might want to consider dropping him an E-Mail thanking him for thinking about

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younger hams with limited budgets. His name William McKellips and his call is WB4DCV. His E-Mail is [WB4DCV@aol.com](mailto:WB4DCV@aol.com). His generosity is appreciated!!

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

### Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:00 hours by NW9V (Phil). Introductions followed. Officers present were: KB9JLB (Barb) WX9WRN (Toni), and N9VJV (Don). Also present at the meeting were:

|        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|
| KB9LMK | N9ZMM  | WD9IWC |
| KC9ERT | WB9PWQ | W9KHX  |
| KC9IDF | KC9IDG | KC9EWY |
| KC9GHB | WD9AYR | KB9JHV |
| N9LJY  | KA9J   | K9GHX  |
| WA9IQL | WB9PDD | WX9WRN |
| KC9GMD | N9QOB  | WA9IL  |
| N9OA   | KB9JWH | N9VJV  |

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by N9JJY (Tom), seconded by WA9IQL (Elden) and carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by KB9JLB (Barb). A motion to accept as presented was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by W9KHX (Dale), and carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: NW9V (Phil) reported that the machine is working fine. N9LJY (Tom) reported that he had lost the repeater when in LaGrange. The original antenna is being used.

220/440 220 WA9IL (John) reported that the 440 machine was working very well. Echolink is now available with the computer linked to Jason's home. The decision is still to be made as to whether or not to move to a new site for both machines.. Autopatch is also available for those who want it. A decision needs to be made about the 220 machine. Do we want to keep it, fix it, move it?

Net Control: WD9IWC (John) and N9ZMM (Archie) distributed the prizes from the last month. Would like to see more checkins.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) recommended that we consider raising the gate price for next year. It was decided last month that the tentative 2006 date will be 8/6 with setup on 8/5. Tom is trying to conform the availability of that date with the park district before getting flyers printed.

Education: NW9V (Phil) reported the DuPage club will be holding classes in Jan for both Tech and General.

VE: W9KHZ (Dale) reported that the next exam will be 12/17 at Station 5t. Cost will be \$14 He will need some VEs to help him. Note that future VE tests will be held by appointment only.

ESG – KB9LMK (Dale) reported that there will be a program on next Wed on how to help the community in the event of an emergency.

Field Day: NW9V (Phil) announced that we need a chairman for next year. N9LJY (Tom) volunteered again. The site has been reserved. It will be the 4<sup>th</sup> full weekend in June.

Public Relations: WA9IQL (Elden) reported that the web site has been updated with everything up to date. Music is now in certain sections. KC9GHB (Mike) offered E-Mail forwarding capability for

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a K9BAR address to the membership. He needs the E-Mail address to be used or the forwarding.

Skywarn WX9WRN (Toni) nothing is happening right now but the possibility is still there. NW9V (Phil) reported the Special Event Station on 12/3 at the NWS. 6 PM Fri to 6 AM Sat.

Misc.: None.

### OLD BUSINESS:

NW9V (Phil) announced the Nov Sweeps contest on 10/19-10/21. N9QOB (Ron) volunteered to host;

KB9LMK reported that EMERT is still looking for new members. WD9AYR (Ed) reported that he took a lightning hit and now has some new toys to play with.

Nominations were reopened for officers.

Motion to close nominations for President was made by N9OA (Steve), seconded by WA9IQL (Elden) and carried. A written ballot vote was taken with KB9LMK (Dale) being elected.

WX9WRN (Toni) was nominated for Vice President. Motion to close nominations for Vice-President was made by KC9IDG (Ed), seconded by N9VJV (Don) and carried. A written ballot vote was taken with KC9GHB (Mike) being elected.

A motion to close nominations for Secretary was made by N9OA (Steve), seconded by NW9V (Phil) and carried. A written ballot vote was taken with N9VJV (Don) being elected.

A motion to close nominations for Treasurer was made by N9OA (Steve), seconded by KC9IDG (Ed) and carried. A written ballot vote was taken when KB9JHV (Jason) being elected.

A motion to appoint WA9IL (John) as trustee was made by WB9PDD (Stan) seconded by WA9IQL (Elden) and carried.

A motion to destroy the written ballots was made by N9LJY (Tom) seconded by W9KHX (Dale) and carried.

A motion to close old business was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by N9QOB (Ron) and carried.

### NEW BUSINESS:

NW9V (Phil) reminded us that the nominations for annual awards will be made at the next months meeting with the awards being presented at the December Christmas Party Meeting.

A motion to close new business was made by KC9GHB (Mike), seconded by WA9IQL (Elden) and seconded.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by KC9GHB (Mike), seconded by WA9IQL (Elden) and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Don, N9VJV

Secretary

### QST - Monthly Siren Test on first Tuesday 10:00 AM

Testing of outdoor warning sirens is encouraged in all communities in Illinois on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 AM.

With the first Tuesday also the first day of the month, and with the change of the seasonal time this past Sunday, thought you may need a reminder. Also, here the home storm windows are in place that may reduce "hearability", too. Be aware, you may have to listen a little better!

For a well-balanced system, many point out that the use of indoor warning systems is necessary. This includes commercial broadcast radio, television stations, cable television override systems, tone-activated radio receivers, and public address systems within buildings. Make sure your Weather Radio with SAME technology is also on, for your NOAA link, and if your local WX service also tests at this time.

Consider activating an ARES "Siren" net for those ARES members in your communities served who can listen and report for this regular siren test function. If you can not attend this net, perhaps you might develop a net control station who can regularly report on sirens heard, and which communities and areas test these sirens.

Contact your local EMA/ESDA, and ask how you may assist them

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in this regular function, or report your net participation. It might open a new or old line of communication.

An example (for at least one community) Federal and Illinois Emergency Services and Disaster Agency guidelines indicate the monthly warning system test should occur in the following manner. ALERT signal (steady siren) will sound for 1 minute (even months). ATTACK signal (wavering siren) will sound for 1 minute (odd months). This testing procedure is different from that used in an actual emergency when the signals are sounded for 3 or more minutes.

See you on the ILARES HF Net next Sunday at 4:30 PM, and try to mention your participation in this monthly test!

vy 73 de Pat Ryan KC6VVT  
ARRL Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator

#### **RLX005 Radio amateurs helping hurricane kids through toy drive**

Hams across the country are helping hurricane kids this holiday season. The ARRL has partnered with The Salvation Army to come to the aid of children in the coastal areas of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana this season by conducting a nationwide toy drive. Toys are already have begun to arrive at the drive's Memphis, Tennessee, collection center.

"Over the past weeks, we have all heard of the devastation left by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many ham radio operators actually experienced it first hand through volunteer service or on their radios," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. He's been serving as the ARRL Headquarters "point man" for the 2005 Toy Drive. "Thousands of families are without a place to live for the coming holiday season, but hams from all across the country are coming to their rescue again through the League's program."

Between now and early December Amateur Radio operators will be gathering unwrapped toys for youngsters aged 1 to 14 and shipping them to the Memphis facility for distribution over the holidays. The address is ARRL Toy Drive/The Salvation Army, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd--Suite 12, Memphis, TN 38117-7125.

The Salvation Army volunteers will distribute the toys collected at the ARRL warehouse throughout areas of the US Gulf Coast where the need is greatest.

#### **SKYWARN Recognition Day special event**

The 7th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day special event will take place December 3rd. SKYWARN Recognition Day is an event co-sponsored by the National Weather Service and the ARRL. SKYWARN Recognition Day is the NWS' s way of saying thank you to Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to helping keep their communities safe. During the 24-hour special event, amateur radio operators visit their local NWS office and work as a team to contact other hams across the world. To learn more, check out the web site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>

#### **"HAM AID" ELIGIBILITY EXPANDED TO RITA, WILMA VOLUNTEERS**

Thanks to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the ARRL' s "Ham Aid" program has been expanded. In addition to Hurricane Katrina Amateur Radio volunteers, Ham Aid now will cover those who are serving or have served in the wake of hurricanes Rita and Wilma. CNCS provided ARRL with \$170,000 in grant extensions to support Ham Aid. The fund offers limited reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses to ham radio volunteers who are providing or have provided emergency communication support in communities devastated by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

"To date, there is adequate funding to support the hundreds of hams who traveled to the Southeast since late August," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. She

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points out that the same reimbursement procedures already in place for Hurricane Katrina Amateur Radio volunteers will apply to hurricane Rita and Wilma volunteers <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/cnscs/>>.

In an effort to distribute funding to as many ham radio volunteers as possible, Hobart says expense reimbursements at present are limited to \$25 per day for a maximum of four days, or a total reimbursement per radio amateur of \$100. Amateur Radio volunteers are eligible for one expense reimbursement per hurricane event. For now, the program only covers per-diem reimbursements between September 1 and December 31, 2005. The period may be extended, however, based on availability of funds.

Hobart says she wants to allay fears of Amateur Radio volunteers who believe accepting the money is contrary to FCC Part 97 rules. §97.113 prohibits "Communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules." Hobart says Ham Aid reimbursements are not for providing "communications" but to help with such costs as travel, meals, lodging and other necessities.

"These out-of-pocket expenses can be a hardship for some Amateur Radio volunteers," Hobart said, noting that some hurricane volunteers have come from the ranks of the unemployed or seniors on fixed incomes. "If we can help one ham to serve where badly needed, that' s what this grant is intended to do." She encouraged all who served in the field in the aftermath of Katrina, Rita or Wilma to put in for the reimbursement nonetheless--if for no other reason than to honor those who have volunteered before them throughout ham radio' s history.

"These volunteers should consider applying anyway and then donate the reimbursement to their club or to another emergency communication-related project," she said. "I' d like to see this money support ARES and our emergency response capabilities in the field." Hobart says the CNCS grant is a tangible expression of the value that the federal government puts on Amateur Radio as an emergency communication asset.

"I hope people take advantage of the helping hand CNCS has extended," Hobart says. "Let' s put this funding to work as CNCS intended."

Hobart says the League will accept reimbursement request applications on a first-come, first served basis for as long as funds are available. Reimbursement checks will be mailed to the address the radio amateur provides on the form.

The CNCS grant is an extension of the ARRL' s three-year Homeland Security training grant, which has provided certification in emergency communication protocols to nearly 5500 Amateur Radio volunteers over the past three years. This grant extension does not cover additional ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications training program reimbursements, however.

Cash donations from individuals are also being accepted by the ARRL to support hams in the field assisting with hurricane relief and recovery efforts. To make a donation go to the ARRL general donation form and elect "Ham Aid" (this is a secure site)

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.