
CQ BARS

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September 2005

President's Corner

Well on Sunday August 21ST. Our team of members came together once again and worked with great intensity to create what appeared to be a successful Hamfest. We had beautiful day weather wise and the event progressed very well. We will find out exactly how well when we get the report from Tom at the meeting. It's always great to see other hams from the area that you haven't seen for a while. I want to thank those members who were available for committing their time both on Saturday and Sunday. With out your support we could not had the results we enjoyed as a team. I especially want to commend Tom on the fine job he did while recovering from major surgery. It will be great to hear the results of all of our hard work.

This is the month that it is time to select the candidates for next year's board of officers. Even though by the bylaws (we are one month late as pointed out to me by Dale KB9LBK) it is time to start thinking about who you want to nominate for your next President, Vice President, Treasure, and Secretary. Nominations will be opened at this months meeting for those positions.

I would like to see a couple of more opportunities to see our members get together and operate a station as a team. In November there is a contest that several of our members have operated in the past. The contest I am referring to is November Sweepstakes. We have had several members volunteer to sponsor this contest and allow other members to come and operate their station. I would like to have someone volunteer to sponsor this contest and also the Ten Meter contest in December. Be thinking about possibly having our interested members over and competing in these contests.

There is one event that I will remind you of. In December (I'm not sure of the date just yet but as soon as its posted I'll let everyone know)The Skywarn Recognition Day at the National Weather Service Special event Station. Those of you that have had the opportunity to participate in previous events know how much fun we have had. All members of all the surrounding clubs are invited to participate. It will probably be the first or second weekend in December so keep those dates open and come to the Romeoville office and operate one of the stations and tour the facility.

I am very disappointed in the fact that I have been the only member who submitted a profile sheet to Don to be printed in the newsletter. I think Don had a fantastic idea when he suggested

that we volunteer the information about ourselves to let the other members get to know us better. Hopefully someone will come forth and agree to be the second candidate to have their profile printed in CQ BARS.

73 DE NW9V

Secretary's Column

We want to extend our sympathy to KA9SFW (Jim) and his family. His mother passed away since the last meeting. I never met her, but from Jim's description she was quite a special lady. She was greatly comforted during severe weather events because Jim sat with her and monitored our weather nets on his radio. Because of that she always knew what was happening and where it was taking place.

I want to include a special thanks to those who responded to a request for assistance that I sent out as a special mailing earlier this month. That was a request from a former Bolingbrook resident who was trying to locate some missing family members in the New Orleans area. Several of you responded with suggestions and one individual who were actually passing health and welfare traffic from that area made an attempt to locate them. I'm happy to report that, although we as ham radio operators were unable to locate them, the family members were found to be safe. Thank you all who

stepped forward to help a total stranger in time of need. You may be amateur radio operators but you are truly professionals in caring. It makes me very proud to be associated with all of you!!

Let's not forget elections this month. Now is the time to choose who will be the leaders of our club for the next year. Please consider your choices carefully. Be willing to serve if nominated. We need all of you!!

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) and N9VJV (Don). Also present at the meeting were:

KB9LMK	WB9PDD	WD9IWC
K9JTB	KA9SFW	N9ZMM

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N9QOB	KC9GMD	W9AFR
W9KHX	KA9J	KB9JLB
KC9HNA	KC9GHB	K9GHX
KA9CRU	KB9JHV	WA9IQL
N9LJY	WB9PWQ	KC9GRH
WA9IL	N9VJV	

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by W9KHX (Dale), seconded by KC9GHB (Mike) and carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by KB9JLB (Barb). A motion to accept as presented was made by WA9IQL (Elden), seconded by KB9LMK (Dale), and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: KB9JLB (Barb) reported that the machine is working fine. N9LJY (Tom) reported that he was having a hard time accessing it from Lemont with 5 watts.

220/440 220 WA9IL (John) reported that the 440 machine was working very well. The 220 machine is also working but not getting a lot of usage. John is still having problems accessing the site. We need to discuss possible move plans.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported that checkins have been averaging 10-18. He will be presenting an award at the December meeting to the individual who has checked in the most times.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported 16 tables are yet to be sold. There are other hamfests conflicting with our date and we may need to consider changing the date again next year. Volunteers will be needed for sat (8/20) to help with setup and (of course) on Sunday.

Education: KC9GRH (Brian) reported that he has a class of 6 working right now

VE: W9KHZ (Dale) reported that the next exam will be at the Hamfest. Cost will be \$14 He will need some VEs to help him.

Field Day: No Report.

Public Relations: KC9BST (Lisa) reported that the web site is in the process of being updated. WA9IQL (Elden) volunteered to help Lisa with the web site.

Skywarn WX9WRN (Toni) and NW0V (Phil) reported that the new antenna, coax, and rotor has been installed at the NWS. Echolink is available at N9UEB (Tim). August 27 will be a special event station for the Plainfield tornado sponsored by the Plainfield Radio League

Misc.: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

N9ZMM (Archie) reminded is that shirts for Field Day 2005 can be purchased as well as club hats. See him if interested. N9QOB (Ron) also has a source and will investigate. WX9WRN (Toni) will talk with N9NPP (Matt). Archie also has Field Day 2005 video (DVD) available for \$3.

A motion to close old business was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by KC9BST (Lisa) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

We were reminded that the September meeting will be officers elections. Get your nominations ready

A motion to close new business was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by KC9GHB (Mike) and seconded.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by N9QOB (Ron) and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

CQ BARS

"VOLUNTEERS NEEDED" CLEARING HOUSE NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Hurricane Katrina Amateur Radio Volunteers Needed Clearing House now is live on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/agencies/>>. This database will be the primary means for relief organizations requiring Amateur Radio volunteers for communication support to list their needs. Additionally, volunteers looking to help may search the listings to match up their capabilities with the various requirements.

"The purpose of this ARRL Web tool is to make it easier on both the agency in need, and the Amateur Radio operator to find matches to fill various requirements," said ARRL Special Assistant to the CEO Dave Patton, NN1N. "We have rapidly learned that during regional and national disasters such as that resulting from Katrina, bottlenecks and bureaucracy slow down responses to aid requests. This tool should help the Field Organization cope."

Representatives of relief organizations or served agencies can post their *communications* requirements on this site for Amateur Radio operators to see. Patton asked organizations lacking a volunteer coordinator who is familiar with Amateur Radio to indicate in the "needs" section that they' re looking for an Amateur Radio volunteer coordinator in addition to radio operators.

Relief agencies seeking Amateur Radio volunteers will be asked to enter basic information about their organizations and their needs, including specific locations in the disaster area. The League anticipates making the Volunteers Needed database available in the future when groups may need the services of Amateur Radio volunteers to supplement or provide emergency or public service communication.

"If you are an Amateur Radio operator wishing to volunteer, use the search engine on the site to find listings of agencies that are looking for your help," Patton added.

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Joe Tomasone, AB2M, the League has been using the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Communications Volunteer Registration and Message Traffic Database he developed as its primary site for prospective Amateur Radio volunteers to offer their services in the current disaster. On behalf of the ARRL, Patton expressed appreciation for Tomasone' s prompt response to fill this need on short notice.

ARRL PRESIDENT URGES ORDERLY AMATEUR RADIO RESPONSE TO KATRINA

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, this week called on the Amateur Radio community to exercise patience as the Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans flooding relief and recovery efforts move into high gear.

"I know many people would like to move now," Haynie said. "Please don' t. I know many of you wanto enter the fray, come to the coast and get involved. Please, not yet." Haynie instead advised hams eager to assist to make sure they' re prepared, refresh their skills and knowledge of protocols and procedures.

The ARRL now is seeking experienced Amateur Radio emergency volunteers to help supplement communication for American Red Cross feeding and sheltering operations in Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Special consideration will be given to operators who have successfully completed the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course training (Level I minimum) to serve as team leaders. All interested should e-mail <Katrina@arrl.org>, providing name, call sign, contact information and any equipment you can take along on a field deployment for an indefinite period. Volunteers may face hardship conditions without the usual amenities and will need to provide their own transportation to the marshaling area.

Haynie says safety is of paramount importance to all ARES volunteers. "For now, the area is simply too dangerous, and no one is being allowed in," he pointed out. "Transportation and logistics, including volunteer groups coming in, must be done in

an orderly manner or we may only add to the chaos and confusion." He requested that ARES members and teams work through their Section Emergency Coordinators (SECs). President Haynie's complete remarks are on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/09/01/1/>>.

BPL AT HQ: ARRL COOPERATING IN BPL SYSTEM EXPERIMENT

BPL has come to ARRL Headquarters, and preliminary indications are that the newly installed Motorola Powerline LV system will prove Amateur Radio-friendly. Motorola approached ARRL last fall seeking input on a BPL design that could avoid many or most of the interference problems that have plagued some other BPL systems. This past May, Motorola introduced its Powerline LV wireless-to-low voltage BPL solution at the United Telecom Council's "Telecom 2005." The ARRL said at the time that it was "encouraged" by Motorola's approach but reserved judgment until it had the chance to see a system up close. A Motorola Powerline LV system was put into operation at Maxim Memorial Station W1AW in late August.

"Theory is great, but the final proof is in how things work out in practice," says ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFL, who's been working with Motorola Principal Staff Engineer Dick Illman, AH6EZ.

Motorola says its Powerline LV system, which unites its Canopy wireless broadband Internet platform with enhanced ham band-notching HomePlug technology, drastically reduces the potential for widespread BPL interference. Illman says it does this by restricting the application of high-frequency RF to low-voltage (220 V ac) power lines instead of to medium-voltage wires that line many residential streets.

In addition, Motorola took the HomePlug modem concept to the next step by adding tunable hardware filters to deepen the notches and improve the immunity of the system to nearby ham transmitters.

At ARRL, a Motorola Canopy wireless link was set up between ARRL Headquarters and W1AW across the parking lot. The system's connected into the League's local area network on the Headquarters side and into a 220 V ac power drop on the W1AW end. Hare and Illman then spent several days checking whether the system affected reception on the Amateur Radio bands at W1AW.

"Although more testing needs to be done over the coming weeks, the initial results for Amateur Radio were positive," Hare said. "While it would be hard to envision a BPL system closer to more antennas and receivers, we found only a few dB of BPL noise on one ham band using the highest-gain antenna at W1AW aimed right at the W1AW building."

Hare and Illman also looked into the Powerline LV system's immunity to the interference from nearby transmitters. As they were testing the system, Hare recounts, W1AW fired up its bulletin transmissions, putting out with more than 1000 W simultaneously on seven bands.

"I could hardly imagine a more difficult environment, with part of the BPL-system wiring 30 feet from W1AW's antennas," Hare remarked, "but the system continued as if the station wasn't even on the air."

Hare says that based on what he's seen so far, Amateur Radio operators should be able to operate fixed and mobile in close proximity to a Motorola Powerline LV installation. The Powerline LV system will remain at ARRL while Hare continues to test the system.

COMMENT DEADLINES SET IN FCC "MORSE CODE" PROCEEDING

The deadline to submit comments on the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19, is October 31. Reply comments are due

November 14. The NPRM&O, which proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes, turned away several other petition requests, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

Comment deadlines are established by the NPRM&O's publication in the Federal Register, which occurred August 31.

To file on-line comments on the FCC NPRM&O in WT Docket 05-235 or to view others' comments in the proceeding, visit the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>> and follow the instructions for filing comments.

Interested parties also may submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <<http://www.regulations.gov>>. People with disabilities may contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc) by e-mail <FCC504@fcc.gov> or telephone 202-418-0530 or TTY 202-418-0432.

For additional information, contact William T. Cross, <William.Cross@fcc.gov>, Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 202-418-0680; TTY 202-418-7233. Alternative formats are available for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), via e-mail request <FCC504@fcc.gov> or by calling the Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau: 202-418-0530, TTY 202-418-0432.

An FCC Report and Order in this proceeding is not likely until late 2005 or early 2006.

ARRL E-MAIL FORWARDING SERVICE ADDS SPAM FILTERING, VIRUS SCANNING

The popular and free ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service has gotten even better. In response to users' requests, the ARRL Email Forwarding Service has added spam filtering and virus scanning on messages sent to <call sign>@arrl.net addresses for forwarding to League members' established email accounts. Best of all, the service will continue to be available to ARRL members at no additional cost. The changes went into effect September 1.

"Unfortunately, no single spam or virus filter is guaranteed to catch 100 percent of undesirable e-mail traffic," cautions ARRL Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY. "Everyone should always protect their own personal computer with appropriate security software, but these new features should help reduce the amount of spam and viruses our members taking advantage of this service have to deal with."

The ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service provides members with a uniform e-mail address that remains the same even if they switch e-mail service providers. A switch in vendors has made it possible for ARRL to include these important new features. Shelley says the addition of the new features should help to reduce the amount of spam that arrives via ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service addresses as well as provide members an additional layer of protection from malicious, virus-laden messages.

The enhancements are being made possible through a switch to Interbridge, the League's corporate Internet Service Provider. This means members using the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service now will get the same spam filtering and virus scanning League Headquarters receives from Interbridge.

To minimize the possibility that wanted mail will be deleted as spam, Shelley says ARRL has the ability to fine tune the filtering program and, in fact, has done just that over the months it's been in use for ARRL Headquarters e-mail. "While nothing is perfect, we have very, very few instances of false positives," he says. More than 65,000 ARRL members and clubs use the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service. Members can learn more or sign up for this service by visiting the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/emailfwd.html>>.

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.