
Q&A BARS

Volume XXIII Issue 07

July 2006

President's Corner

For those of you that were at the June meeting and have decided to "stick it to the President" by taking advantage of the free dinner offer I made, just a reminder that you need to be a club member in good standing to collect on your meal. I say this to remind you that the dues year ends July 31, so be sure to pay your 2006-2007 dues at the July meeting; otherwise, you won't be an eligible active club member when you visit the Hamfest, and will not qualify for the dinner deal (see the fine print on the back of the offer 8-). If you are a "Life Member", remember you need to fill out an application each year to remain listed as an active life member.

For those of you who have no idea what the free dinner offer is, there is still time to take advantage of it, but of course, the people who attended the June meeting have a four week head start on you. Come to the July meeting and you can get all of the details.

I want to congratulate everyone who had anything to do with Field Day 2006. If this is supposed to be a test of how we work under emergency conditions, then I think the idea of being forced to change sites at the last minute, proved we were up to the challenge. Also, a new local paper, The Bugle, did a full page article on us in issue Vol.1 NO.2 which may still be available for you to read.

As some of you know, Bolingbrook Mayor Roger Claar took some time out of his busy schedule to visit our field day site. His support of our organization has been visible and appreciated. The way I figure it, if he was willing to leave Bolingbrook to visit Field Day, I have to believe there is a chance he will stop by at Hamfest.

Speaking of Hamfest, those of you that show up in Joliet each year on the Sunday morning of Hamfest for the free breakfast might notice that with a new site this year some changes have been made. Most notable will be that you will be all alone because we will be somewhere else.

Hamfest is one of two major visible events your club runs each year. Hamfest is the primary money making event that keeps your club operating. Hamfest is the one time of the year when the club really needs your help, and because of the new site and the unforeseen problems that could occur; the club needs your help more than ever this year. Come to the July meeting and find out what you can do to make this event a success. If everyone does a little, a lot gets done.

Isn't that why we're here? Think about it.



See you on the Radio
Dale, KB9LMK

Secretary's Column

Field Day is done, and not IT'S HAMFEST TIME!!

This next meeting is going to be a planning session for Hamfest, so please be prepared to ask what you can do to help. It's a big project but if we all do a little we can make it a great success. Mayor Claar generously helped us bring the 'fest to Bolingbrook this year and we want to make it rock!! For those of you who hadn't heard, the Inwood Recreation Center in Joliet had a fire recently that would have made it difficult (if not impossible) for us to hold the Hamfest there this year.

It's also dues time. I've enclosed a copy of the membership application. Please, Live members, fill it out and return it so that I know you're still alive!! It also keeps your address information current.

Please see the article further down I this newsletter about Field Day. It's a note that I received from one of our guests that really expressed it well. He totally enjoyed it, and it was because of all of you!! Mayor Claar was able to take the time out of his busy schedule to stop by for a short visit and brought some of his Board members along. Thank you, Mr. Mayor for your interest and support for our group!!

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:00 hours by KB9LMK (Dale). Introductions followed. Officers present were: KB9JHV (Mike), KB9JHV (Jason) and N9VJV (Don). Also present at the meeting were:

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| WB9PDD | KB9JHV | KC9CCH |
| N9ZMM | NW9V | KB9LMK |
| KC9GHB | KM9M | WA9IQL |
| KC9CHB | N9LJY | KA9J |
| W9KHX | KB9ZNX | KA9UJH |
| KA9SFW | KC9JLK | N9VJV |

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A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KM9M (Zig), seconded by N9LJY (Tom) and carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by KB9JHV (Jason). A motion to accept the report as presented was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by NW9V (Phil), and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: No Report.

220/440 KB9JHV (Jason) reported that the 22- machine has been required and is operational. The PL is off and some additional work is needed. The 40 machine is not operational yet. The power supply has been replaced but more work is needed because of moisture damage. WA9IL (John) and KB9JHV (Jason) are working on it. There was some discussion about using the other 440 machine that WA9IL has in storage as a replacement but no decision was made.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported that checkins are still increasing. Archie is sending out thank-you cards for new checkins.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) and WA9IL (John) sketched out the room layout. The food vendor is all lined up and will bring his own generator. Advance tickets and flyers are ready for pickup. Don (N9VJV) will send out 2 tickets each to local clubs. KA9J (Frank) will handle talking. Will begin setup at 2 PM on August 5. Help will be needed.

Education: No Report.

VE: W9KHX (Dale) reported that the last test session had several passes and 1 fail. There is no work on dropping code yet. KB9LMK (Dale) offered to buy dinner to all who upgraded 1 license level at the Hamfest test session.

Field Day: N9LJY (Tom) reported that we need band chairs. N9JUW (Joe) volunteered for 40 M and KB9GHB (Mike) volunteered for 80 M. NW9V (Phil) will bring software. WA9IQL (Elden) will bring 3 laptops, KB9JHV (Jason) 1 laptop, and KB9HGB (Mike) 1 laptop. N9VJV (Don) will help pick up towers and antennas. KB9JHV (Jason) will bring a copy of the permit. There is a possible storage area at the Bolingbrook Public Works facility for the towers and antennas after Field Day. N9LJY (Tom) will check with the village.

Public Relations: WA9IQL (Elden) reported that the web site has been updated. And Field Day notifications have been sent to the newspapers as well as Channel 6.

Skywarn: NW9V (Phil) reported that we should be ready. N9UEB (Tim) reported that personnel are still needed for the NEWS office.

Misc.: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

A motion to close old business was made by KA9SFW (Jim), seconded by WA9IQL (Elden) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

N9VJV (Don) announced that Hamfest advance tickets are available. See him after the meeting.

A motion to close new business was made by KB9JLB (Barb), seconded by WA9IQL (Elden) and seconded.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by KB9JLB (Barb) and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Don, N9VJV

Secretary

Past President' s Webpage From WA9IQL Webperson

Fellow BARS Members:

First off, I'd like to thank Wiley Rhodes (WD9AKO) for providing me with his collection of old "CQ BARS" newsletters.

Second, I STILL need the December issues of the

CQ BARS

following years: 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1992, and 1993.

NY help will be appreciated! This will enable me to complete this page project and give all past presidents their due.

Thank you

US HOUSE OKAYS TELECOMS BILL WITH BPL STUDY LANGUAGE INTACT

On a 321 to 101 vote, the US House of Representatives on June 8 passed the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006. The House-passed bill, HR 5252, leaves intact language that would require the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), one of two radio amateurs in Congress, sponsored the BPL study requirement, "Study of Interference Potential of Broadband over Power Line Systems," contained in Title V, Section 502 of the complex bill.

HR 5252 now goes to the US Senate, where a separate--and very different--telecom bill, the Communications, Consumer' s Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006 (S 2686) is still in committee.

"We were concerned that a representative might be persuaded by BPL interests to introduce an amendment to delete or dilute Section 502," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "As it turns out that didn' t happen, although we had taken steps to counter it if it had. So for now our focus returns to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee." Sumner says that if similar language were introduced on the Senate side, it would be more likely to remain when and if the House and Senate versions go to a conference committee.

Section 502 calls on the FCC to "conduct, and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a study of the interference potential of broadband over power line systems," within 90 days of the bill' s enactment.

Ross proposed including the study wording while the bill was still in the Energy and Commerce Committee. With the support of Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX), the panel agreed by voice vote to include it when it reported the bill out.

The BPL study requirement reportedly has received significant opposition from electric utilities. The United Telecom Council (UTC), a bulwark of BPL support and administrator of the Interference Resolution Web site, last month referred to the study requirement as a threat and urged its members to contact their members of Congress regarding its inclusion in the House measure.

A year ago, Ross sponsored House Resolution 230 (H Res 230), which calls on the FCC to "reconsider and revise rules governing broadband over power line systems based on a comprehensive evaluation of the interference potential of those systems to public safety services and other licensed radio services." That non-binding resolution has eight cosponsors.

In an April 27 statement, Ross said including the FCC study requirement in the House bill "would guarantee that valuable public safety communications and Amateur Radio operators are not subject to interference." He said infrastructure-free Amateur Radio, "often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication," can maintain communication in disasters that bring more vulnerable technology to its knees. Ham radio operators "are often the only means of communication attainable in a devastated area," Ross said.

"I believe it is imperative that the interference potential [of BPL] is thoroughly examined and comprehensively evaluated to ensure that deployment of BPL, which I do support, does not cause radio interference for Amateur Radio operators and first responders

who serve our communities," Ross added. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will consider S 2686 in a markup session later this month. The ARRL has e-mailed members in the 22 states with Senators on the committee, urging them to write seeking support to include similar BPL study language in the Senate bill.

Report Assesses Catastrophic Planning Capabilities

Nationwide

Courtesy of WA9IQL (Elden)

June 16, 2006 - The Department of Homeland Security issued findings from a national assessment of the country's catastrophic planning capabilities. Responding to directives from President Bush and the Congress, following Hurricane Katrina, the Nationwide Plan Review looked at whether existing emergency operations plans for states and urban areas are sufficient for managing a catastrophic event. The Review also presents conclusions on actions needed by the federal government to improve and coordinate planning.

Conducted in all 56 States and territories and 75 urban areas over 6 months, the Nationwide Plan Review was the most comprehensive assessment of emergency operations plans to date relative to planning for a catastrophic event. Reviewers examined nearly 2,800 emergency operations plans and related documents with participation from more than 1,000 emergency managers and homeland security officials.

http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interweb/assetlibrary/P rep_NationwidePlanReview.pdf

Areas of Relative Strength:

The Review found that many State and urban area EOCs have added an emergency support function to incorporate amateur radio networks.

Best Practices.

West Virginia's EOP recognizes that volunteers and volunteer agencies support the State in providing emergency health services, medical assistance, and response capabilities during a disaster. The plan describes and defines the structure and capabilities of private volunteer relief organizations and lists the current agreements in place with volunteer relief and disaster assistance organizations.

Rhode Island integrates volunteer organizations into nine of their ESFs and includes them at the State EOC, including Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) to provide amateur radio operations, the Civil Air Patrol to provide transportation and aerial reconnaissance and real-time imagery, Medical Reserve Corps for medical surge, and the ARC and Salvation Army for shelter operations.

I received this note from one of our guests at Field Day and wanted to share it with all of you.

Hi Don,

I wanted to take a moment and Thank You, your fellow Club Members, and BARS Club for your Extraordinary Hospitality at Field Day exercise this year. It was a great time to renew friendships, experience wonderful camaraderie, and extraordinary food you offered. Your demonstrations were superb, and your tent with the Satellite Communications were especially interesting. In today's terms, a young lady who was working in that tent said "COOL", which pretty much says it all. That mode with the Tracking, and logging software, absolutely captured visitor inquiries as it did mine. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the software demonstrated by "Bill" KC9XG, who gave a fascinating demonstration of APRIS, and RF Path Loss Software he wrote.

And a big thumbs up to Stanley & Barb, who put on a great dinner which would make a French Chef envy, and at the same time be entertained by some of Stan's memorizing stories. I have to tell you, I enjoyed each and every one of them. And the great time you and I had discussing various software platforms, and Computer equipment. And let me not forget the "HUMOR" of John "WA9IL" when he made it look like he ate some Acorns a young Lady gave him. The look on that girls face when she thought John actually swallowed them and began to choke was hilarious. I just wish all of you could have witnessed that event as it happened. I am still laughing! All of this makes membership in your Club not only worth it "IT PAYS!"

HUGE CUBESAT LAUNCH SET FOR JUNE 28

In what AMSAT-NA is calling the largest deployment ever of Amateur Radio satellites, 13 "CubeSats" carrying ham radio payloads are set for launch June 28. If all goes according to plan, a Dnepr-1LV rocket will carry the CubeSats into space from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. A fourteenth satellite in the package will not carry an Amateur Radio payload.

The CubeSat project is a collaboration between California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo and Stanford University's Space Systems Development Laboratory. All of the CubeSats set to launch this month were designed and built by students at various universities in the US and elsewhere in the world.

Cornell University, Cal Poly, and the University of Arizona each will send two CubeSats into space. Other US schools participating in the mass CubeSat launch are the University of Illinois, the University of Kansas, Montana State University and the University of Hawaii. In addition, schools in Norway, S Korea and Japan have built CubeSats for this month's launch.

One of the CubeSats, known as SEEDS, was built by students at the Nihon University in Japan. It contains a CW beacon, Digi-Talker and other experiments. The CW beacon will be on 437.485 MHz and use the call sign JQ1YGU. The Digi-Talker experiment will be activated later. All 13 CubeSats will identify using Amateur Radio call signs.

According to AMSAT-NA, the satellites will be put into a 500-by-566 km (310 by 351 miles) orbit with a 97-degree inclination. Each tiny satellite is a 10 cm (4 inch) cube weighing just 1 kg (2.2 lbs) into which the battery, transmitter and various experiments are packed.

Twelve of the satellites have downlinks in the Amateur Radio satellite allocation between 435 and 438 MHz, and one will operate on 145.980 MHz, so there will be lots of signals to listen out for after launch. None of the spacecraft will carry a transponder. Transmitter power outputs range from 10 mW to 2 W.

Handling the complex job of frequency coordination was International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Amateur Satellite Advisor Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, and a panel of experts who assist in frequency coordination and advise satellite builders.

Ralph Wallio, W0RPK, maintains a Web page <<http://showcase.netins.net/web/wallio/CubeSat.htm>> with up-to-date CubeSat status (scroll down).--AMSAT News Service

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.