
CQ BARS

Volume XXIII Issue 06

June 2006

President's Corner

It has been a busy month for me with a lot of travel and meetings. I spent two days at the Princeton Hamfest trying to recruit IMERT members, and yes, I had a stack of our flyers on the table. There seemed to be a lot on interest in our Hamfest. I hope that is a good omen.

Sunday brought the state convention. A good time to be seen and to see others who are involved in the emergency services side of our hobby. I listened to a number of people discuss how difficult it is to get any kind of support or recognition from their local government, and some of the things they have tried in order to get a foot in the door. I used the opportunity to tell others about the support we have gotten from the Village of Bolingbrook, and thought I would get run out of the room when I mentioned our up coming Hamfest and that the mayor arranged for a \$1000 donation to help offset expenses. I don't understand why they got so jealous. It's not my fault they don't live in Bolingbrook. 8-)

Speaking of village support, special thanks go out to Bob Mierop, Battalion Chief Administration, for teaching a NIMS class for the club at Fire Station #4. You could tell that he put some time into preparing the materials and the slide show. I know some of you have emailed me to explain that you completed the class on line, and that is good, but Bob was able to bring in local examples and I believe that added a lot to our understanding of the material and where we might fit in to better serve Bolingbrook in an emergency. Be sure to get me a copy of your completion certificate, so I can note that information in your ARES record.

Last but not least, our club secretary, Don, has extended an invitation to the mayor, fire chief, police chief, and members of their staff to stop by our field day site as we demonstrate "Amateur Radio operators' abilities to setup under less than ideal conditions for the purpose of establishing communications facilities in the event of a local or national disaster." No pressure there Don. All kidding aside, we did have more people step up and accept responsibility for various tasks at the last meeting, and that is good, but more is still needed if we are to live up to Field Days past and show the Village what we can do for them in the future.

A friend of mine ends all of his emails with the phrase: "NON SIBI SED SUIS". In case your Latin is a little rusty, it loosely translates to "not for one's self, but for others."

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



See you on the Radio
Dale, KB9LMK

Secretary's Column

Field Day is here!! Are you ready?? What are your plans?? We need folks for setup, operators, loggers, takedown. It's a time that I look forward to every year. We'll be making our final plans at the next meeting, so be sure to come out and let us know what you can do. We don't expect everyone to stay for the entire time, but come for however long you can. Even if you can only spare an hour, come and enjoy the time. If you're planning on being there at mealtime KA9SFW is going to need to know about it so that he can make sure there's enough groceries for all of us.

We always invite our village officials and staff to stop by and join us for part of Field Day. I've received a response from our Chief of Police that he's planning on stopping by between soccer games. Plus he's copied the invitation to several of his staff members. Let's be ready to give them and any other guests a warm welcome and introduction to the ham radio hobby. Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to stop by. It's a perfect opportunity to introduce them to the hobby.

We're also going to need to find a different location to store the club towers and antennas for next year. N9NPP (Matt) has graciously

been willing to store them in the past, but he's asked us to find another location for the future. Please let the board members know if you would be willing to store some or all of them until next Field Day.

For those of you who missed the NIMS class, it was well worth the time and effort. Bob is an excellent instructor and was able to provide us with practical examples from the real world, not just theoretical scenarios.

Please note the article about the FCC Rules Changes. This was brought to my attention by Frank Rasmusson KA9VPH. For those of you who aren't acquainted with Frank he has been forwarding a copy of CQ Bars to his own extensive mailing list for several years now. If you have the opportunity to meet him please take a moment to add your appreciation of his efforts to mine.

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

2

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

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| KA9CRU | W9KHX | WB9PDD |
| N9LJY | WD9IWC | N9ZMM |
| KC9GRH | KC9GSL | N9UEB |
| NW9V | N9NPP | KC9DCJ |
| WA9IL | KC9GHB | KA9SFW |
| KA9MKZ | KB9LMK | N9VJV |

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KA9CRU (Hank), seconded by N9LJY (Tom) and carried.

No Treasurer's report was available. Jason was ill.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: No Report.

220/440 WA9IL (John) reported that he will get a crew together to work on the 220 machine next Sat. The 440 machine is working fine.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported that checkins are still increasing. March had a total of 70 with 6 being new. Archie will be sending out thank-you cards for new checkins. WD9IWC (John) distributed the awards.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported that he has spoken with the HS office. The rental fee will be \$850. He and WA9IL (John) sketched out the room layout. 77 tables will be available with 1 having already been reserved. Tickets and flyers are ready for pickup. Don (N9VJV) will send out 2 tickets to local clubs.

Education: KC9GRH (Bryan) reported that he has 3 students meeting and 1 will be ready for exam. Refer any interested parties to him

VE: W9KHX (Dale) reported that the next test session will be June 10.

Field Day: N9LJY (Tom) reported that we need band chairs. KC9GHB (Mike) volunteered for any HF band...KB9JHV (Jason) volunteered for 20M. KA9SFW (Jim) will be bringing sign-up sheets to the next meeting.

Public Relations: No Report.

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

Misc.: N9UEB (Tim) brought ARES applications for renewals.

OLD BUSINESS:

N9UEB (Archie) questioned the Hello Campaign. Jason was to download a video. No report since Jason was not available.

KB9LMK (Dale) reported the board decision to keep the dues the same as last year. He also reported that the NIMS class would be held on June 5. He will pass the details to N9VJV (Don) who will send out a special E-Mailing.

The new controller will be installed on the 2 meter machine soon. A motion to close old business was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by W9KHX (Dale) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

N9UEB (Tim) announced that Will County is forming a subpool of personnel for communications. Training will take place at the Will County EOC in Joliet. Contact Will County EMA if interested.

KC9GRH (Bryan) announced that the next CARMA meeting will be at Phillies restaurant in Willowbrook on June 3 at 1 PM.

N9LJY (Tom) announced that there was a rumor regarding the elimination of the CW requirement to be made at the Dayton Hamvention.

A motion to close new business was made by WD9IWC (John), seconded by KC9GRH (Bryan) and seconded.

CQ BARS

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by WD9IWC (John) and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

2 of our members recognized in the IL Section News. CONGRATULATIONS!!

IMERT - Upcoming test of IMERT in Northbrook and surrounding area per Bob AB9EE, NE District Ass' t DEC. Fine article in CQ BARS April 2006 issue about IMERT conference, written by Dale KB9LMK, President of Bolingbrook ARS, and OES/IL. See: <http://www.k9bar.org/newsletters/apr06.pdf>

CQ BARS also had a "must read" bonus page, as Elden WA9IQL OES/IL contributed an article titled THE NATURE OF DISASTERS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AMATEUR RADIO By Tom Cox VE6TOX that was presented at Communications Academy 2006, April 1, 2006, Burien WA

ARLB007 House Committee Okays Telecoms Bill with BPL-Interference Study Amendment

The US House Energy and Commerce Committee's version of the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006 includes an amendment requiring the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. The panel voted April 26 to send the much-talked-about "telecoms rewrite" bill to the full House for its consideration. "Outstanding news!" was the reaction of ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

"This is a major victory for the ARRL," he exulted, noting that the amendment "received significant opposition" from utility companies. Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), proposed the amendment, and, with the support of Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX), the committee agreed by voice vote to include it in the bill. "This puts the House Energy and Commerce Committee on record as having concerns about BPL interference," Sumner said.

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 their interference potential to public safety and other licensed radio services.

"Hundreds of ARRL members who wrote their congressional representatives in support of Rep Ross' s H Res 230 helped to achieve this week' s success with the COPE Act amendment," Sumner observed.

A statement released by Ross' s office notes that his amendment, which received unanimous committee support, "would guarantee that valuable public safety communications and Amateur Radio operators are not subject to interference." One of two radio amateurs in the US House, Ross 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

FCC WRC-03 amateur rule changes now in effect Courtesy of Frank Rasmusson KA9VPH

* 97.111(a)(1) to permit ' ' transmissions necessary to exchange messages with other stations in the Amateur Service, except

those in any country whose administration has notified the ITU that it objects to such communications. The FCC will issue public notices of current arrangements for international communications.' ' The old language permitted communication among amateur stations in different countries ' ' except those in any country whose administration has given notice that it objects to such communications.' ' The FCC said the change does not prejudice its proposal to amend 97.111(a)(2) to clarify that amateur stations may, at all times and on all authorized channels, transmit communications necessary to meet essential needs and to facilitate relief actions.

* 97.115(a)(2) to facilitate the transmission of international communications on behalf of third parties in emergency or disaster-relief situations, whether or not a third-party agreement is in place between the US and the countries involved. The revision now permits communication with any non-US station ' ' when transmitting emergency or disaster relief communications' ' as well as with any non-US station ' ' whose administration has made arrangements with the United States to allow amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties.' ' The rule further provides that no station may transmit third-party traffic other than emergency or disaster relief communications to a station in a country lacking a third-party arrangement. Still excepted from the prohibition is any third party eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station.

* 97.113(a)(4) to prohibit amateur stations exchanging messages with amateur stations in other countries from making transmissions that are encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except for control signals exchanged between Earth command stations and space stations in the Amateur-Satellite service, something Part 97 already provides for. The old rule referred to the use of ' ' codes and ciphers.' ' The same rule also already prohibits transmitting music, communications intended to facilitate a criminal act, obscene or indecent words or language and false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

* 97.117 to state that amateur stations may transmit communications incidental to the purposes of the Amateur Service and to remarks of a personal character.

The FCC also revised 97.3 and 97.309 to update the definition of International Morse code and of various digital codes in the amateur rules to reflect changes in the international Radio Regulations.

Skywarn Reminders

The National Weather Service Ham Radio Team will use four local 70 cm and 2 meter repeaters for relaying weather information to the NWS forecast office Chicago. These repeaters will be monitored by amateur radio operators (Ham Team) at the forecast office. Emergency Managers and Local Spotter net control persons may relay vital severe weather information via these repeaters to the Ham Team who are working along side the meteorologists who are issuing warnings. It is easier for the Ham Team to monitor four repeaters than the nineteen we used to monitor.

These repeaters will be used for communication to and from the National Weather Service forecast office. They will be monitored during severe weather and will be activated anytime the meteorologist in the Forecast Office needs information about severe weather and/or flooding. Use of radio is the preferred way of getting information with Amateur Radio. However, the Ham team will be monitoring Echolink as well.

The Ham Team and meteorologists request spotter information to be passed over these repeaters. Such information may be from local spotter nets and County Emergency Managers. The information requested is what is taught in our spotter training courses, i.e. hail, wall clouds, tornadoes, flash flooding or

flooding.

From time to time the Ham Team or a Meteorologist will transmit information about the weather situation on the liaison repeater. This will be information concerning the 23 counties in the WFO Chicago warning area. For example, information may be the direction and speed of thunderstorms and mesocyclones from the NWS radar. Another example may be information on the river basins most prone to flooding and locations of heavy rainfall.

The Repeaters we have use of so far are the following;

Plainfield Illinois 444.550 Mhz + Duplex PL 114.8
Valparaiso Indiana 147.105 Mhz - Duplex PL 131.8
DuPage County Illinois 442.550 Mhz + Duplex PL 114.8

NORTH ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON OFFICIALLY UNDER WAY

Scientists within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predict an 80-percent chance of an above-normal 2006 north Atlantic hurricane/tropical storm season, which runs from June 1 through November 30. A repeat performance of the devastating 2005 season is unlikely, however. Weather experts at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, National Hurricane Center and Climate Prediction Center produced this year's outlook

<<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>>. "For the 2006 north Atlantic hurricane season NOAA is predicting 13 to 16 named storms, with eight to 10 becoming hurricanes, of which four to six could become 'major' hurricanes of Category 3 strength or higher," says NOAA Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher.

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <<http://www.hwn.org>> activates on 14.325 MHz when major tropical storms threaten the US. It works in concert with WX4NHC <<http://www.wx4nhc.org>> at the National Hurricane Center to relay real-time ground-level weather data to forecasters.

On average, the north Atlantic hurricane season produces 11 named storms, with six becoming hurricanes, including two major hurricanes. In 2005, the Atlantic hurricane season experienced a record 28 storms, including 15 hurricanes. Seven were "major," and a record four hurricanes hit the US.

While NOAA is not forecasting a rerun of last year's season, the potential for hurricanes to strike the US is "high," Lautenbacher said.

The first named storm of the 2006 season will be "Alberto." The name "Katrina" has been removed from the list of storm names.

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.