
Q&A BARS

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May 2006

President's Corner

This month's message may be a little shorter than usual as I did my normal procrastination until I received my reminder email from Don. Now I need to put my thoughts onto paper as I am packing to deploy for a three day drill in Northern IL, only to be followed by five days of training in Indianapolis. If the schedule works out correctly, I should return home just in time for our May meeting and a flight to Canada the next morning.

Every so often, if you give people the chance, they will rise to the occasion. Such was the case at our last meeting when we passed around the sign up sheet for those who have an interest in attending a NIMS class. I was pleasantly overwhelmed by the response. As a result I have spoken to Bob Mierop, and he is available to teach the class on Monday June 5, 2006 at a time and place yet to be determined as I write this, but hopefully at Fire Station #5. The way it will work is that he will provide the training, and you will then go on-line to take the exam. I will have all of the details by the May meeting. And as always, if you don't know what NIMS stands for, you belong in the class.

At a meeting a few months ago, one of the members was kind enough to point out to me, that I was spending time at each meeting trying to get volunteers for the field day event which was, at that time, several months away. I guess I get like this because I live and die by my calendar where I am already booking events into 2007 and 2008. I realize it may be the "engineer" in me that makes me try to organize my life so, but I do feel it is now safe to point out that the May meeting will be the last opportunity to organize this event without giving our event chairman an ulcer by waiting until June (If you close your eyes, you might even hear the violins playing softly in the background at this point). 8-)

Yes, you could wait until the last minute and then volunteer, or maybe even not tell anybody and let them be surprised when you show up on the week end. But, I am hoping that if I give you another opportunity to rise to the occasion, you will. So look at your calendar and come to the May meeting prepared to let us know when you can be there to help.

See you on the Radio
Dale, KB9LMK

Secretary's Column

It's Field Day time!! We need to get ready. This is the opportunity for all operators to work any band you like. Are you a CW guru – we need you. Are you a no-code tech – we need you. Do you



know an unlicensed individual who would like the chance to participate – we need you to invite them to come out and see what our hobby is all about. Last year we had a member whose wife was unlicensed. She sat in a tent for hours under the guidance of a licensed control operator and enjoyed it so much she is now LICENSED!!. Just be prepared to spend money on a new radio like he did. Please come to the next meeting prepared to decide how you can participate and help. We need band chairpersons. We need volunteers for setup and take down. We need folks who are willing to spend the night on site to make sure the equipment doesn't leave for parts unknown. We don't expect everyone to be there for the entire event. Come for the day, Come for the evening, Come for as long as you feel you can stay. Even an hour will help us and be enjoyable for you. We hope to operate as a 6A event, but we'll drop back at the very beginning if we see that we're not going to have the equipment and personnel to stay at 6A. If you recall, we decided to disqualify ourselves from the competition last year because we did not rate ourselves at the correct level. This isn't going to happen again this year.

Once again, our own KA9SFW, camp cook extraordinaire, will be service gourmet meals straight from the grill. If you're planning on being present for the meal(s) he needs to know which meals and how many people to prepare

for. The best food, however, is going to be reserved you those who actually help, so don't show up just at mealtime. It's just not fair to those who do help.

On another note, please take a look at the article on NIMS in this issue. While Illinois doesn't yet REQUIRE NIMS certification to participate in emergency communications activities our having that certification tells public agencies that we are on the same page as they are and makes our participation MUCH more useful. Our own Bob Mierop has offered to teach the class. Let's take full advantage of his offer.

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 (Jason) KC9GHB (Mike), and N9VJV (Don). Also present at the meeting were:

WD9IWC

NW9V

N9ZMM

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KC9GRH	KB9LMK	KC9GSL
K9GHX	KB9JHV	K9JTB
N9QOB	KC9GMD	N9LJY
KA9CCH	WB9PDD	KA9SFW
WA9IL	KC9GHB	KA9MKZ
KA9J	KB9JLB	KC9EWY
KM9M	N9VJV	WB9BBK

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by K9GHX (Jim), seconded by N9QOB (Ron) and carried. The Treasurer's Report was presented by KB9JHV (Jason). A motion to accept as presented was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by KC9GRH (Bryan), and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: WB9BBK (Bob) reported that the new controller is to be delivered. We will then be able to disable the autoid for Skywarn. The PL will be 107.2.

220/440 WA9IL (John) reported that there is no change on the 220 machine. Still no audio. He and KB9JHV (Jason) will check out the 440 antenna. It's still noisy.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported that checkins are still increasing. March had a total of 76 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 A9IL will be at the hamfest to check QSL cards for awards. Tom will be meeting with the village to lay out the .spaces being used. Tickets are ready for pickup. Don (N9VJV) will send out 2 tickets each to local clubs.

Education: KC9GRH (Bryan) reported that he has 4 students meeting and will be ready for exam in June.

VE: N9LJY (Tom) reported that the last test session had 2 candidates 1 passed Extra. 1 failed tech.

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

Misc.: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

NW9V (Phil) reported that there is now a link out our web page to the Village of Bolingbrook and a reverse link on the Village web site to our Skywarn page.

N9LJY (Tom) reminded us that we need to avoid asking spotters to go to a specific location. This will eliminate any liability issues.

KB9LMK (Dale) reminded us that should avoid discussing radar observations when in active mode. We should be reporting actual visual observations only.

A motion to close old business was made by N9QOB (Ron), seconded by NW9V (Phil) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

WA9IL (John) in his capacity as ARRL Tech Coordinator presented NW9V (Phil) with a certificate for his service at the NWS.

K9GHX (Jim) observed that it would be helpful for the Station 5 personnel to have web access for weather events.

NW9V (Phil) would like to do something to promote the 'Hello Campaign'. Tabled until the board meeting.

WB9BBK (Bob) reported that the Citizens Radio Watch is being organized. Interested parties should contact the Police Department at 226-8600 for more information.

KB9LMK (Dale) reported that pictures will be taken for new ARES volunteers.

CQ BARS

KB9LMK (Dale) reported that there is a possibility for an instructor led NIMS course for those who are interested. KB9BBK distributed Station 5 keys.

A motion to close new business was made by WA9IL (John), seconded by KB9BBK (Bob) and seconded.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by KC9GRH (Bryan), seconded by WA9IL (John) and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

NIMS COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In Pennsylvania, NIMS [National Incident Management System] training is now a requirement for ALL first responders by decree of the Governor. There is also a requirement from Homeland Security to put NIMS in place (or lose federal funding opportunities). Currently in Pennsylvania the requirements are the IS-100, 200, and 700 courses. See <<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/IS/crslist.asp>>. IS-800 (National Response Plan Intro) will also be required soon. Pennsylvania's requirements can be found on the PEMA web site <<http://www.pema.state.pa.us>>. It's of note that the Pennsylvania requirement explicitly applies to volunteers. -- Donald D. Cripe, KE3MM, Western Pennsylvania DEC, New Galilee, Pennsylvania

As of last year, just before I departed FEMA HQ, all FEMA employees are now required to complete the following EMI courses within one year of being on board: IS-100 (Intro to ICS), IS-200 (ICS for Federal Disaster Workers), IS-546 (Continuity of Operations Awareness), IS-700 (NIMS Intro), and IS-800 (NRP Intro). -- Bart Bartholomew, N3GQ NIMS has been required for all of us in Prince William (Virginia) since last year (about 80% of my ARES team have it now) and IS-100 and IS-200 are required by the end of the year (2006). I am signed up for 200 and 300 next weekend. ECs and AECs are also required to have the NRP Intro course (IS-800). It looks like the League needs to embrace these as requirements for all ARES members sooner rather than later. -- David A. Lane, KG4GIY, EC/RO Prince William County ARES/RACES <http://www.qsl.net/pwcares/> I keep seeing statements from various areas about FEMA course and ARECC requirements for ARES appointees. However, here in our Section I got flak for suggesting it. If the ARRL takes a stand, then I can enforce the practice in use around the county. -- David Pifer, N9YNF NIMS compliance for volunteers - CORRECTION: In the March newsletter, I had passed on a response from the NIMS Integration Center concerning how NIMS and ICS applies to Amateur Radio volunteers. Due to editing for brevity, the letter gave an incorrect impression that NIMS and ICS training is required for all Amateurs. This was incorrect. The NIMS Integration Center response related to FEMA FAQ 399 that indicated NIMS and ICS training was not required for Amateurs.

Since that response, FEMA FAQ 399 has been withdrawn, and FAQ 313 has been updated twice. FAQ 313 now states, in part, "The NIMS Integration Center strongly recommends that volunteers with a direct role in emergency and incident management and response take NIMS and ICS training." For additional history on these FAQs and the updates, see <http://ares.rf.org/dist6w/e_letter.htm> -- Ron Breitwisch, KC0OX, ARES District Emergency Coordinator - Iowa District 6 West

From our Webmaster – KB9OEX

It is with GREAT pride that I make this announcement!! After discussions with my Information Technology Commission Chairman and several other members of Bolingbrook Village government, I am pleased to announce that, as of today April 14, 2006, the Bolingbrook SKYWARN webpage has been linked to

the main page of the Village of Bolingbrook website, thereby recognizing it as "The Official Weather Resource For The Village Of Bolingbrook"! This, in turn, will allow greater exposure for the BARS website to people who might not have known it existed, thereby promoting and expanding awareness of the Amateur Radio community and the services we offer to the greater community as a whole. It will further promote awareness of the hobby and, hopefully, ignite interest in becoming a part of it.

Card Checking at the Hamfest

Jess Colvin (AI9L) will be able to check cards for. We can check for the ARRL WAS, DXCC & VUCC awards as well as for CQ awards such as their WAZ award and DX awards.

QST de W1AW

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.

ARLB008 FCC WRC-03 amateur rule changes now in effect

Several FCC Part 97 Amateur Radio rule revisions to implement changes agreed to at the international level during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) now are in effect. The FCC Order, released in January, affects 97.111, Authorized transmissions; 97.113, Prohibited transmissions; 97.115, Third party communications, and 97.117, International communications. The Federal Register published the changes May 3.

' ' These amendments will ensure that the Commission' s Amateur Radio Service rules conform to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference, and will further the Commission' s ongoing efforts to streamline its Amateur Service Rules,' ' the FCC Order said. ' ' The overall effect of this action is to

update the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules in the Code of Federal Regulations to conform to now-effective international agreements."

The FCC Order revises:

* 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 revised 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.

TULSA AMATEURS SUPPORT HOSPITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 11, 2006 - A drill of the Tulsa Area Amateur Radio Hospital net was conducted in partnership with the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency (TAEMA), Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), and ARES. The Tulsa Chapter of the Red Cross also participated. Tulsa area hospitals have dual band VHF/UHF mobile radios permanently installed, and ready for use in a communications emergency. Amateur Radio is an important part of the Tulsa emergency communication plan. The drill was successful, with a few equipment issues discovered at two hospitals. The hospitals will be working hard to address them. -- Mark D. Conklin, N7XYO, Assistant SEC for Northeastern Oklahoma
<n7xyo@arrl.net>

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.