
CQ BARS

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Dec 2007

President's Corner

I would like to say to everyone first of all, to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year! We will hold our annual Christmas party on Dec. 17th meeting. We will be providing Pizzas and pop and ask everyone to bring a dish to pass. Also there will be a raffle during the party. I am very pleased to see some of our past members showing up at our last meeting. As I first mentioned when I took the position as President of the club I wanted to move in a positive direction I think this is happening with:

1. Getting the 440-repeater back and putting echo link back online in the next few weeks. Some of the future capabilities of this are doing, traditional modes such as RTTY, SSTV and CW (to name a few), as well as today's hottest new modes like PSK31, MT-63.
2. Past members returning back to the club.
3. The Bars webpage is back up and updated.
4. Institute member's feedback session at end of meeting.

I think this is a good start and hopefully we will see more members return and see new ones join! On a sad note, one of our members Norm KA9ZAW has passed away in Arizona on Thanksgiving night. Norm was a Life member of BARS. I would like to pass on to his family and friends our condolences. Norm was an active member for many years until his work took him out of state in recent years. You may have met him at our Field day site this past summer.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

Tom N9LJY

Secretary's Column

We want to thank KA9G (Frank) for his demo of his Doppler Direction Finding equipment after last month's meeting. It was a fascinating example of a construction project and ending up with a useful piece of equipment. Thank you, Frank for sharing with us. We hope that this will be just the first of many more after meeting presentations. Do we have any other volunteers??

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:00 hours by N9LJY (Tom). Introductions followed. Officers present were: KC9JQW (AJ). N9VJV (Don) and KB9JLB (Barb). Also present at the meeting were:

WB9PDD	NW9V	WA9IL
KA9J	KB9JLB	N9LJY
N9ZMM	KC9GSL	KA9SFW
N9ABF	KC9JXD	NB9R
KC9JQW	N9QOB	KC9GMB

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KB9JLB (Barb), seconded by KA9SFW (Jim) and carried

The Treasurer's report was presented by KB9JLB (Barb). No Approval required.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: KA9J (Frank) reported that it's working.

220/440 WA9IL (John) reported that the 440 machine was now operational. It's running at 85 watts. A preamp will soon be installed. Getting the 220 machine up and running is another project as is adding EchoLink to the 440 machine. Thanks to all who helped.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported good checkins.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported that Roberto (Ham Radio Toy Store) sent in ticket cash. The beg letter for the 2008 fest is in process. The Jan meeting will be the time to sign up for committees. KA9SFW will contact the High School. We will try to get the NWS to hold spotting classes.

Education: No Report. Need a volunteer to chair.

VE: The next session will be 1/15 at Station 5. 9 am to Noon.

Field Day: N9LJY (Tom) reported that we want to do 6A again. This is an important opportunity to showcase ham radio to the public.



Public Relations No Report.

Skywarn: Toni (WX9WRN) reported that Skywarn Recognition Day will be 12/1 thru 12/2. She read a letter detailing the plans. NW9V (Phil) gave directions to the NWS office. Please do not disturb the forecasters. Only those who operate will receive certificates. Toni is trying to get a class put together specifically for radio operators.

OLD BUSINESS:

Archie (N9ZMM) reported on the fox hunt. KB9JLB (Barb) found the fox and will be the next fox. He's planning on having one every other month. See Archie if interested. The next one will be 2/16 at 4 PM from Station 5. More details to follow.

A motion to close old business was made by KC9JXD (Chris) , seconded by KC9JLK (Marianne) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

N9ZMM (Archie) asked about the web site. We are looking at improving it. More details to follow. It has been relocated to a new site.

N9LJY (Tom) would like volunteers to head a donation committee. He also asked for volunteers to attend other club meetings N9ABF (Jim) =volunteered to attend other meetings.

WX9WRN (Toni) reported that findstacypeterson.com has dates for further searches. Any volunteers see Toni. She also announced an ARES net will begin on the 3rd Tues of every month 7:30 PM.

N9LJY (Tom) asked for suggestions for activities such as Pumpkin Patrol, Village Events, Classes, Presentations.

Ballots were distributed and then collected for the annual award nominations. The awards will be distributed at the Christmas Party. The club will furnish pizza, pop, and paper products. Bring desserts and snacks.

WA9IL (John) is trying to get EchoLink set up on the 440 machine. Dr Gary Becker will donate the computer and set it up in his office. An interface board will run \$99. Need a radio – any donations. A motion was made by KA9J (Frank) and seconded by N9ABF (Jim) to authorize the purchase of the interface board.. Motion carried.

A motion to close new business was made by WA9IL (John), seconded by NW9V (Phil), and carried

A motion to adjourn was made by NW9V (Phil), seconded by KA9SFW (Jim) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

Thursday Night net Statistics courtesy of N9ZMM (Archie)

Here is the November 2007 Net Report:

Total check-ins: 79
Total First time: 7

There was no net held on 11/22/2007 to recognize Thanksgiving Day.

Total number of Hams checking in for 2007: 146

Top Five check-ins for 2007:

Bryan, KC9GRH.....43
Joe, KC9ERT.....42
Bob, N9RAT.....40
Lavert, KA9CCH.....32
Bob, KA9BHD.....29

Host with the Most:

Marianne, KC9JLK.....275 Check-ins
John, WD9IWC.....275 Check-ins
Archie, N9ZMM.....228 Check-ins

Numbers do not count the Net Controller.

Both Marianne and John are tied for the "Host with the Most", and has one more chance to bring in the winning numbers.

Marianne will host December 13th, and John will have one more chance to win December 20th. Good luck to both.

Also Bryan, KC9GRH takes the lead for the Most Check-ins in 2007.

Awards will be handed out at the January 21st meeting good luck to all!

The Fox is loose again!

BARS will be hosting its second Foxhunt and would like to invite all that want to try foxhunting or learn how too. Groups are always welcomed

Next foxhunt will be on February 16th at the Fire station #5. Please be at the station before 3:45 PM. I will be taking check-ins to see who will be the hunters. If you can let me know at the meeting or by email that you will be there I will put you on the list.

Hope to see you there for a fun afternoon of hunting.

Archie, N9ZMM
Foxhunt Coordinator

It's great sadness that we report a Silent Key:

It was informed by Greg, AB9MZ that Norman, KA9ZAW had passed away over the weekend. I was told he was in Arizona at the time.

Greg said his son (Norman) is taking his class to be a tech, and informed him of his passing. The son did not know who to contact from BARS and said there was things at his house that belong to BARS.

Note: I was told he will be buried here...no more information was given.

Archie, N9ZMM

Peter Dahl Company

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It received this from several sources.

The Peter W. Dahl Company (<http://www.pwdahl.com/>) in El Paso, Texas, will be closing its doors as of December 31, 2007, according to Peter Dahl, K0BIT, owner and founder of the company that has made custom transformers for more than 40 years. Dahl, 67, is suffering from Parkinson's Disease. The company manufactured a wide variety of transformers and reactors for Amateur Radio and commercial radio and television applications. According to Dahl, many are direct replacements for original equipment components that are no longer available from the manufacturer, while others have general-purpose applications in any number of different transmitters. He said that they had more than 4000 individual transformer designs on file. QST columnist John Dilks, K2TQN ("Old Radio"), said the closing of the Dahl Company was "sad news for those of us who restore the big iron." Dahl told the ARRL, "I want to thank everyone for their business throughout the years. I have enjoyed making each Amateur Radio transformer." -

From the Chicago Amateur Radio Yahoo Group

K7AGE has produced some outstanding amateur radio training videos and tutorials.

His videos are available for free on YouTube. The multi-part series on PSK-31 (and other digital modes and sound cards) is very useful for those beginning to enter this area. There are other videos on antenna construction, Dxing, satellites, etc.

Check it out at:

http://www.youtube.com/profile_videos?user=K7AGE&p=r

Don't forget Straight Key Night:

Starting at 0000 GMT on 1 January 2008. Beats participating in the activities of the 'other' amateur night on the roads. SKN takes on more of an importance this year as CW becomes a specialty rather than a requirement. I expect that we will see more activity than in previous events

HAMS AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: WORKING TOGETHER FOR SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

The Ninth Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day recognizes Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to help keep communities safe.

Co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS), the event is scheduled for Saturday, December 1. During this 24 hour special event, Amateur Radio operators, working together with their local NWS offices, will activate Amateur Radio stations and work as a team to contact other hams across the world.

"This is a fun event," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. "For 364 days of the year, hams aid in providing the NWS offices with real-time information on severe weather when people and property are at risk. But this one day is for fun, friendship and recognition of the critical services given to communities by the hams."

Scott Mentzer, N0QE, organizer of the event and Meteorologist-In-Charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas, concurred. "Radio amateurs are a tremendous resource for the National Weather Service. These folks are dedicated, and the assistance they provide throughout the year is invaluable. SKYWARN Recognition Day is our way of saying thank you."

CQ BARS

In 2006, 90 NWS offices across the country participated and logged more than 16,000 radio contacts, according to Goodland's Warning Coordination Meteorologist David Floyd, N5DBZ. In typical SKYWARN operations during severe weather, direct communication between mobile spotters and local NWS offices provides critical "ground truth" information for forecasters. In summer, spotter reports of hail size, wind damage and storm rotation in real time greatly assist the radar warning operator, since that information can be correlated with Doppler radar displays. In winter, snow nets are held, where reports of snow totals, ice accumulations and whiteout conditions in blowing snow help NWS forecasters assess the extent and severity of winter storms. In recent years during wildfire situations, Amateur Radio operators have reported the precise locations of thick smoke and zero visibility, allowing forecasters to provide crucial weather updates to fire fighters.

"NWS offices utilize the real-time reporting of weather events to assist in warning operations, but certainly hurricanes Katrina and Rita have shown us that ham radio operators are equally important during the recovery phase of large-scale natural disasters," Floyd pointed out. He also cited the example of the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN). He notes that the HWN, organized in 1965 during Hurricane Betsy, started out as an informal group of amateurs but has since developed a formal relationship with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami via its Amateur Radio station WX4NHC. Ham radio operators and volunteers at Miami work together when hurricanes threaten to provide real-time weather data and damage reports to the Hurricane Center's forecasters.

2008 WCRA Hamfest

The 2008 Wheaton Hamfest will be on Sunday, January 27, 2008 at the DuPage Expo Center in St. Charles, IL. Advance tickets are now on sale. Information is available at www.wheatonhamfest.org.

PSHSB -

The FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau is responsible for all Federal Communications Commission activities pertaining to public safety, homeland security, national security, emergency management and preparedness, disaster management, communications infrastructure security & reliability, and other related issues and for dissemination of communications information to public safety organizations and the general public. Most important for your served agencies, and discusses and provides outreach for your community hospital in their communications array. Learn more at:

www.fcc.gov/pshs/index.html

In the Preparation Guidelines for the Redundant/Back-up Communications, EmComm via amateur radio is offered in this form:

"Consider HF radio as an option, recognizing that HF usually requires a skilled operator such as a licensed HAM radio operator. It is advisable to identify and include HAM radio operators in your emergency operations plan and when activated, identify where they will be assigned. It is important to include all known HAM, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), and SHARES operating personnel in the area to maximize their assistance during critical times."

<http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/clearinghouse/health-guide.html>

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.