

---

---

# CQ BARS

---

---

Volume XXIV Issue 10

Oct 2007

---

---

## President's Corner

A New Beginning,

With your new board in place now, I would like to say thank you for your support during the past elections of Officers. Also would like to say thank you to the past board for their leadership and dedication for the past 2 years. As your new president I'm looking to increase the club's membership and invite our past members to return to help us build the camaraderie, friendships and interest in Ham Radio again! We have some ideas in mind but we will need your help in soliciting your ideas. I would really like everyone to work together and let's play together and turn this club around to where we can get everyone involved in field day, the Hamfest in which is going to be a lot of work, and also bring back the family picnic each year. I know this board is determined to make this club an outstanding club and will have our ears opened to suggestions from all! Here are some of the things we are doing:

1. Halloween patrols
2. Assist in radio communications during community events
3. New committees
4. Contests
5. New programs for monthly meetings

See ya on the radio

Tom N9LJY

## Secretary's Column

A shortened Secretary's column again this month so as to fit more important news in. I just want to say thank you to all who made it to the last meeting and exercised their responsibilities to vote for the officers who are to lead our club for the next year.

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: KC9GHB (Mike),



N9VJV (Don) and KB9JHV (Jason). Also present at the meeting were:

K9JTB	KC9JQW	KC9JXD
WD9IWC	KB9LMK	KC9LCT
KA9SFW	KA9J	KB9JLB
WB9PDD	N9ZMM	KB9JHV
WX9WRN	N9LJY	KA9CCH
KB8GHB	WA9IL	KA9ZJJ
N9OZD	N9ABF	NB9R
K9GHV	N9GH	AA9CJ

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KA9ZJJ (Marti), seconded by N9GH (Gary) and carried

The Treasurer's report was presented by KB9JHV (Jason). No Approval required.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**2 meter:** No Report.

**220/440 WA9IL** (John) reported that he and N9LJY (Tom) are still trying to get access to the tower for repeater maintenance. They keep getting the run-around from American Water.

**Net Control:** N9ZMM (Archie) reported good checkins. John distributed prizes.

**Hamfest:** N9LJY (Tom) reported that the application for the 2008 ARRL convention has been approved by Bill Isley and is now working its way thru the rest of the ARRL officials. Yaseu rep has been invited for 2008. The date will be Aug 3 with setup on Aug 2.

**Education:** No Report. Is there any interest in JOTA?

**VE:** No Report.

**Field Day:** No Report.

**Public Relations** No Report.

**Skywarn:** WX9WRN (Toni) reminded us to keep ready.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

## 2

N9ZMM (Archie) reported that the Fox Hunt will on Oct 13 9 AM. Met at Station 5. Will run for 3 hours. They have a fox and need hunters.

### Elections:

President. No new nominations. A motion to close nominations was made by KM9M (Zig), seconded by K9JTB (Bu=ill) and carried.

Vice President: KC9GHB (Mike) withdrew his name from nomination. A motion to close nominations was made by WA9IL (John), seconded by WX9WRN (Toni) and carried,

Secretary: No new nominations. A motion to close nominations was made by KM9M (Zig), seconded by KA9AJJ (Marti) and carried,

Treasurer: no new nominations. A motion to close nominations was made by KM9M (Zig), seconded by WD9IWC (John) and carried.

Voting took place by written ballot. New officers are:

President – N9LJY (Tom)

Vice President: KC9JQW (AJ)

Secretary: N9VJV (Don)

Treasurer: KB9JLB (Barb)

The ballots were given to N9VJV (Don) to be destroyed.

A motion to close old business was made by KB9JLB (Barb), seconded by KM9M (Zig) and carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

WA9IL (John) expressed thanks to N9GH (Gary) for reminding him that the club call was about to expire. He has renewed it.

A motion to close new business was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by WX9WRN (Toni), and carried

A motion to adjourn was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by KC9JQW (AJ) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don, N9VJV  
Secretary

### **Thursday Night net Statistics courtesy of N9ZMM (Archie)**

Here is the September 2007 Net Report:

Total check-ins: 63  
Total First time: 2  
Total number of Hams checking in for 2007: 131  
Top Five check-ins for 2007:  
Bryan, KC9GRH.....36  
Joe, KC9ERT.....36  
Bob, N9RAT.....34  
Levert, KA9CCH.....27  
Bob, KA9BHD.....26  
Host with the Most:  
John, WD9IWC.....219 Check-ins  
Marianne, KC9JLK.....202 Check-ins  
Archie, N9ZMM.....219 Check-ins

Numbers do not count the Net Controller.

---

### **NOAA to Provide More Specific Warning Information for Severe Weather**

Courtesy WX9WRN (Toni)

September 29, 2007

## CQ BARS

NOAA's [National Weather Service](#) will begin issuing more geographically specific warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, floods, and marine hazards starting October 1. The new "storm-based warnings" will allow forecasters to pinpoint the specific area where the threats are highest, reducing the area warned by as much as 70 percent when compared to today's county-by-county system.

"These are potentially deadly, short duration events that can develop very rapidly," said Vickie Nadolski, acting deputy director of NOAA's National Weather Service. "Our technology has evolved to support better warnings, and we are adapting to meet public expectation to receive weather information on demand."

"By focusing the threat, we can reduce the warned area by as much as 70 percent, which equates to more than \$100 million in savings to the public," said Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Jr., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "The real bottom line is that this will potentially save more lives. Eliminating areas needlessly warned builds confidence that you do indeed need to take action when a warning is issued."

Storm-based warnings are displayed graphically and are extremely adaptable to cell phones, PDAs, and the Web. The Emergency Alert System is geared toward counties and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards will still alarm if there is a warning anywhere in the county. However, text and audio messages will provide more specific information about where in the county the storm is, and the direction the storm is moving. Storm-based warnings will reference landmarks such as highways, shopping centers, and parks, and will use directional delimiters to indicate county location.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 70 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

---

### **AMATEUR RADIO GOES TO WASHINGTON**

Army MARS Chief Stuart S. Carter, AAA9A, has invited the ARRL and Amateur Radio representatives to join a Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) demonstration outside the Capitol building in Washington, DC on October 3. Hams around the country are asked to aid in the demonstration by making HF contacts during the day. With help from Laura Abshire, Legislative Aide to Representative Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), Tricia Russell, Legislative Aide to Representative Steve Israel (D-NY), and coordination of the myriad details by "Pudge" Forrester, W4LTX, Systems Administrator for Representative Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), the "show" is set for next Wednesday, and hams around the country can help.

### 3

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said, "Thanks to a MARS invitation to join in a demonstration, and excellent coordination work by Forrester, the October 3 demonstration of Amateur Radio and MARS emergency communications will be front and center in the open space between the Capitol building and the Botanic Garden in Washington, DC." Pitts went on to say that the regional MARS organization is planning to conduct an exercise demonstrating emergency communications at the Capitol, as well.

The exercise assumes a Category 3 hurricane, Hurricane Quincy, will make landfall on October 2 over the coastal areas of Delaware, Maryland, DC and Virginia. Quincy will progress northward to New Jersey and Pennsylvania and then travel inland to the south, returning to the Atlantic Ocean on October 5 via the Carolinas and Georgia. During this time, MARS resources will be challenged by ongoing events in every part of the country, including ice storms, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and earthquakes.

There will be a communication trailer, tent type shelter, four HF transceivers -- voice, PSK, and Winlink -- and VHF equipment at the site. The local Voice of America (VOA) organization and MARS have local repeaters and digipeaters available. Power will come from solar panels and generators with battery backup. The emergency communications trailer, owned by the Blue Ridge Association, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, part of the Southern Baptist North American Missions Disaster Relief Ministries, will also be on hand.

Representatives from ARRL headquarters, including Pitts, will be there. They will have ARRL public relations materials as well as video that shows the negative impact of BPL if current FCC rules are not modified. In addition, there are special materials for Members of Congress and their staff advocating Amateur Radio's positions on several legislative issues, including information to solicit co-sponsorship of H.R. 462 and H.R. 2743.

While MARS will be conducting their drill on their frequencies, Amateur Radio operations are scheduled from 1400-2100 UTC. While there may be last minute changes, plans are to try to center HF voice contacts around 14.250 and 7.250 MHz, and on PSK at 14.070 MHz. "By showing Members of Congress our nationwide capabilities and potentials, we advance the Service in many ways," Pitts said.

Representatives Ross and Bartlett plan to stop by. Army MARS is sending their Chief of Operations Grant Hays from Arizona. Mike Barrett, K3MMB, of the Transportation Security Administration's Office of Security Operations is aiding with the operations and logistics.

#### **GET READY FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL ARRL ON-LINE AUCTION!**

The Second Annual ARRL On-Line Auction kicks off October 24, running until November 2 on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/auction>>. This is your chance to pick up one-of-a-kind Amateur Radio items. To see what the Auction will offer this year, be sure to check out the Auction preview that begins October 17. Last year, the Auction attracted more than 4300 bidders from 36 countries. While the majority of buyers were from the USA, Canada and the UK, there were buyers from Australia, Malaysia, Grenada and Tanzania.

According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's on-line auction was our first and it was a great success. When the bidding ended, we realized that we had sold

## CQ BARS

104 items and we had raised just over \$37,000." Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as creating instructional materials.

This year's auction will include many products tested by the ARRL Lab for QST Product Review. These items include an ICOM IC-7800, a Ten-Tec Omni VII, a Palstar Auto Antenna Tuner, an MJF 974H Balanced Antenna Tuner and a Heil Traveler Headset. There will be many vintage items offered, including the antique transmitter featured in John Dilks' "Old Radio" column in the November 2007 issue of QST. Also, returning by popular demand will be five ARRL Lab unique "junque" boxes..

#### **In case you missed it:**

The collapse of the Minneapolis bridge brought media comments about Amateur Radio. This time the stories were in reaction to the inability of cell phones in the area to handle all the critical messages. Preparing for a recent article in CONTACT! found that most cell systems can actually carry fewer than 5% of their customers in voice messages at any one time. Some systems were found to be a lot less robust. MSNBC noted this on August 2 in their story by Alan Boyle who interviewed ARRL Section Manager Skip Jackson, KS0J. While emergency communications worked well, civilian communications were called "inadequate." John Biachtal of Wired News (USA) also wrote about the cell phones being overwhelmed. His advice to the readers was blunt and to the point - "Get (ham radio) licensed and join an emergency communications group." from "Media Hits", October 2007 QST

QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 20 ARLB020  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT August 31, 2007  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB020  
ARRLB020 FCC Issues Two Citations in Longstanding Power Line Noise Case

The Federal Communication Commission's Dallas Field Office issued Citations on July 25 to two utilities in a longstanding power line noise case in Lubbock, Texas. Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, of Lubbock, first reported the interference concerning the two involved utilities, Lubbock Power & Light (LP&L) and Xcel Energy, as early as 1994. The record shows that the FCC Dallas Field Office clarified the FCC rules with regard to power line noise for LP&L as early as 1998, and issued three letters to LP&L in 2003 and 2004. Xcel Energy was first issued an FCC letter in 2004.

The Citations to the Lubbock utilities said that due to an investigation conducted by the FCC's Dallas office on May 22-25, 2007, they found that both LP&L and Xcel "caused harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications to amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas." The FCC directed both LP&L and Xcel, pursuant to the Commission's Rules, to provide documents and information within 10 days of their respective Citations.

In its undated Response to the FCC's Citation, LP&L stated that it "does not admit to and specifically denies any violation of the [Communications] Act [of 1934] or any rule pertaining thereto," but "in order to comply with the...Citation, the City of Lubbock files this response." As a result of the Citations issued by the FCC, LP&L's Response stated that representatives from "Lubbock Power Light met with Paul Leonard, P.E., Area Engineer with Xcel Energy to discuss the alleged findings

regarding harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications by amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas." Xcel's Response, submitted via their attorney, pointed out that the Citation acknowledges "that the source of harmful interference to amateur licensee W5KFT is emanating from more than one power company." Xcel also alleges that it "has been working with amateur W5KFT for a number of years in an effort to identify the source of, and a possible resolution for, the harmful interference he is experiencing. Xcel Energy has a good working relationship with the licensee and has coordinated with him on numerous occasions in attempting to resolve his interference problems."

Xcel goes on to assure the FCC that it will "retain an outside technical consultant to provide an unbiased assessment of either the harmful interference to W5KFT is attributable to Xcel Energy's power system and if so, what corrective measures would be required." Edwards reported that on Thursday, August 30, he received a phone call from Paul Leonard, head of Xcel Energy in West Texas. Edwards said he was told that Xcel has contracted with Mike Martin, K3RFI, to come out to Lubbock in October to work on the line noise. "Leonard said they tried to get LP&L to participate with them and Mike, but they refused to do so," Edwards said. Martin owns and operates RFI Services, a firm dedicated exclusively to RFI locating and training. He has been locating interference sources for more than 25 years, solving an average of 500 complaints a year, according to the ARRL Lab. Martin has also given power line interference workshops at ARRL Headquarters.

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, said, "I am pleased to see the FCC taking a strong enforcement step in this case. It has gone on for a long time, and this Citation should serve to finally get things resolved. It is unfortunate that some of the power line cases the ARRL is handling can't be resolved without the FCC taking formal action, but I expect that electric utilities across the country will now take notice of this case."

NNNN  
/EX

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.