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# CQ BARS

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Volume XXIV Issue 09

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## President's Corner

Ah, September...Labor Day, back to school, and BARS election of officers. Yes, it's that time again, and since I am not running for re-election, I thought I might jot down some of our past successes, and challenges for the coming year as I see them.

Some of the things I would put on the "success" list are:

- Our Thursday night net continues to thrive under the guidance of Archie N9ZMM and his dedicated group of net controllers.
- New and upgraded licenses are being issued thanks to Dale W9KHX and the VE team.
- We have started to create a written inventory of our assets, something that has not existed in the past.
- We adapted well to our new Field Day site in Bolingbrook.
- We hosted the 2007 ARRL State convention under the leadership of our Hamfest Chairman, Tom N9LJY. Apparently we did ok because Dick W9GIG, the ARRL Central Division Director has approved our application to host the 2008 convention and forwarded it to the ARRL for final approval. At this rate, we should be approved with much more time to advertise than last year.

Some of the "challenges" facing the new officers will be:

- The need to keep the web site up to date. While it has improved a lot in the past year, as I write this, it is September and the web site is still advertising the 2007 Hamfest held last month.
- The need to streamline the meeting format to eliminate the "same thing every month" non-functioning committee reports.
- The need to find people who will lead informative educational sessions at each meeting so that members who attend will become better informed and skilled Hams.
- The need to find additional ways to assist our primary served agency, the Village of Bolingbrook.
- The need to improve in several areas if the 2008 State Convention and Hamfest is to become a profitable event.

These are some big challenges that your new officers will need to tackle if the Society is to continue to grow. In any election like



this, a few votes can make a difference.

Your vote can make a difference.

See you at the meeting, and

See you on the Radio  
Dale, KB9LMK

## Secretary's Column

Again I'm including a membership application with this newsletter. Remember that the September meeting is doubly important. First of all, it's membership renewal time. Yes, Life members, this means you as well. If I don't see a membership application I assume that you're dead and incapable of reading the newsletter. Seriously, it's to keep your contact information up to date. Also. Please make sure your E-Mail address is accurate. If the bounce they get removed from the mailing list.

It's also election time for officers. Nominations will remain open until the September meeting. Elections will take place at the September meeting. Please remember that the election is not a popularity contest.. We need to make sure we choose officers with integrity and

leadership skills who will lead the club forward for the next year. A reminder that to either vote or hold office you must be a member in good standing with paid up dues or life membership. If I don't receive a membership application we don't consider you a member. This means Life members as well.

The new membership application has a space for you to designate whether you want your personal information to be made available in a roster. With identity theft becoming more and more prevalent I felt this was necessary.

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:

AA9CJ

K9JTB

NB9R

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KB9JHV	KC9ERT	WD9IWC
KC9JXD	KB9LMK	KC9JQW
WB9PDD	KC9GHB	N9ZMM
N9LJY	NW9V	KA9CCH
KA9ZJJ	N9OZD	N9VJV

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by N9ZMM (Archie), seconded by K9JTB (Bill) 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 the village still can't get us admission to the tower

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

**Hamfest:** N9LJY (Tom) thanked all who helped make it a success. The inside vendors did well despite the rain. All tables were filled. The food vendor sold out. We need to get an inventory of all club properties so we know where they are for next year. A motion was made by KC9JQW (AJ) and seconded by WA9IL (John) to apply for the ARRL convention again next year. Motion carried.

**Education:** No Report.

**VE:** No Report.

**Field Day:** KB9JHV (Jason) reported the ARRL has received our logs.

**Public Relations** KA9ZJJ (Marti) had nothing new to Report

**Skywarn:** WX9WRN (Toni) reported that the recent tornado was in the same place as last time. Again nothing showed up on the NWS radar. Keep ready...

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

A motion to close old business was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by WD9IWC (John) and carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Nominations were opened for officers

President: N9LJY (Tom)

Vice President: KC9JQW (AJ), KC9GHB (Mike)

Secretary: N9VJV (Don)

Treasurer: KB9JLB (Barb), N9BR (George)

N9ZMM (Archie) is trying to get a Fox Hunt started, Anyone who is interested contact him

WD9AYR (Ed) reported that the DuPage club is going to have classes beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat in January.

A motion to close new business was made by KA9ZJJ (Marti), seconded by N9LJY (Tom), and carried

A motion to adjourn was made by K9JTB (Bill), seconded by NW9V (Phil) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don, N9VJV  
Secretary

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

August 2007

Total check-ins: 93

Total First time: 15

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Highest number of check-ins was from Marianne, KC9JLK, total 37

August 23rd was called because of Weather Net in progress.

Total number of Hams checking in for 2007: 128

Top Five check-ins for 2007:

Bryan, KC9GRH.....	32
Joe, KC9ERT.....	32
Bob, N9RAT.....	30
Lavert, KA9CCH.....	24
Bob, KA9BHD.....	23

Host with the Most:

John, WD9IWC.....	208 Check-ins
Marianne, KC9JLK.....	186 Check-ins
Archie, N9ZMM.....	186 Check-ins

Numbers do not count the Net Controller.

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### **Section News**

The Western Illinois ARC again presents the Illinois QSO Party on 21 October. More at <http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html>.

SEC Pat Ryan KC6VVT reminds us that "The 2007 Simulated Emergency Test has been announced by the ARRL and is an annual measure of EmComm readiness by local clubs and ARES® units. The SET target weekend is October 6-7, but a SET may be any time soon. SET guidelines and forms have been emailed to all our ARRL Illinois Section EmComm staff and are posted on the ARRL web pages." I've already been advised of two SET events; Three of DuPage County's Amateur Radio Clubs, the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Club, York Radio Club, and the DuPage Amateur Radio Club will participate in the SET See <http://www.w9dup.org/set2007.php>. John N9JZX is the DuPage club point of contact. Also, Kendall County ARES® got a jump on us all by naming their participation in the recent 'Rolling on the River' event as their SET effort, according to Dirk Wolgast W9QA, EC.

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### **NEWS from CPSC**

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Office of Information and Public Affairs  
Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2007

Release #07-292

Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 203-4921  
CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772  
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Weather Radios Recalled by Oregon Scientific Due to Failure to Receive National Weather Service Alerts

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Oregon Scientific Weather Radios

Units: About 66,000

Manufacturer: Oregon Scientific Inc., of Tualatin, Ore.

Hazard: The radios could fail to receive National Weather Service alert signals in certain areas of the country. In the event of severe weather, this failure could put a consumer's life and property at risk.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: This recall involves the following Weather Radios and Weather Stations:

**NAME MODEL**

All Hazards Portable Weather Alert Radio WR103NX

Portable Public Alert Radio WR108

Public Alert Weather Station WRB308

John Deere Public Alert Weather Station WRB308J

No other models are included in this recall.

Sold at: Retail stores nationwide, including some electronics and sporting goods stores, online retailers and in catalogs from December

2005 through June 2007 for between \$30 and \$150.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should not rely on the recalled weather radios to receive emergency information. Consumers should contact Oregon Scientific for instructions on returning the radio to receive a free replacement.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Oregon Scientific at (800) 203-4921 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at [www2.oregonscientific.com](http://www2.oregonscientific.com)

To see this recall on CPSC's web site, including pictures of the recalled products, please go to: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml07/07292.html>

**FCC ISSUES TWO CITATIONS IN LONGSTANDING POWER LINE NOISE CASE**

The Federal Communications 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 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," and that "Section 15.209 sets the general radiated emission limits for intentional

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radiators. The limit for the band 30 to 88 MHz is 100 micro-volts per meter measured at 3 meters. The attached list of strong electrical arcing points appears to exceed the value allowed even for intentional radiators." The list, attached to each Citation, included 44 separate "strong electrical arcing points" that were found near Edwards' home.

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. "Because the source of harmful interference is emanating from more than one power company and past attempts have not resolved the problem, you must submit a written plan describing the planned resolution of this case," including LP&L's coordination with Xcel Energy and Xcel's coordination with LP&L, according to the Citations. Also, each company is "directed to provide a report every sixty (60) days, of work completed to resolve the interference until your distribution system is in compliance."

Each Lubbock utility was warned that "[v]iolations of the Act or the Commission's Rules may subject the violator to substantial monetary forfeitures, seizure of equipment through in rem forfeiture action, and criminal sanctions, including imprisonment." In rem is a civil forfeiture proceeding as opposed to a criminal forfeiture proceeding.

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 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 whether 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

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taking formal action, but I expect that electric utilities across the country will now take notice of this case."

Most power line noise sources in fact can be located quickly and economically, Gruber said; many utilities in fact handle power line noise complaints as a matter of routine maintenance. "All it takes is a properly trained RFI investigator with modern noise locating equipment. By using noise signature techniques, the utilities would have had only to address those sources actually contributing to the problem. The message to utilities here is clear. Don't ignore power line noise complaints! Don't make the FCC get involved!"

For more information on this story, as well as links to the ARRL report, the FCC's Citations and the utilities' Responses, please see the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/30/100/?nc=1>> .

### **NWS Chicago Open House October 6!**

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Romeoville will hold an open house on Saturday October 6, 2007 from 900 a.m. until 300 p.m.

At the open house visitors will see and learn about;

- Official NWS weather observations – surface and upper air – a weather balloon will be on display
- Volunteer weather observing networks including the Cooperative program, CoCoRaHS, and the Chicago-Rockford Area Snowfall Teams
- The NOAA and NWS organization, the Chicago Weather Forecast Office area of responsibility, and programs
- An overview of our web pages and NOAA Weather Radio – All Hazards
- Displays of satellite, Doppler radar, and weather maps
- Forecast operations and the warning decision process
- A look at the Doppler radar data acquisition building (sorry, visitors are not permitted in the radome)
- An overview of computer systems and communications

The open house will be held rain or shine. Each tour will take approximately one hour. The first tour will begin at 900 a.m. and the last will begin around 300 p.m. (and end about 400 p.m.) It is open to all ages – a great outing for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other youth groups.

For security reasons – no bags, backpacks, purses are permitted in the building. Please leave them in your car. Cameras are allowed.

### **FCC TO LOWER VANITY CALL SIGN FEES SEPTEMBER 17**

The FCC will reduce the regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting September 17. In a Report & Order (R&O) released August 6, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission will cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. This marks the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$171,990 in fees from the program.

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The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year. Call signs issued prior to 1996 are not considered vanity call signs, even if the holder was able to request a specific call sign.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.htm>

>. The FCC's forms page <<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>> also offers the required forms

### **From the Chicago Area Monitoring Association (CARMA) news Reflector. Courtesy of Don – Ka9QJG**

A lot of Help has been offered to the new Hams, and Scanner users and this Effects the Receive To, some will say just get a Preamp You cannot amplify a Signal that is loss in the Coax. It will bring up the Noise level and looks good on the Meter. So Lets try and get them off on a Good Understanding of Coax Loss, Being a Ham Scanner listener for over 30 yrs I was actually surprised When I cam across this Coax Calculations Site <http://www.ocarc.ca/coax.htm> And as Always We Give a Big Thanks to the People who set up sites like this and their Hard work and sharing with us. I did an Example that kind of says it all

I used the Calculator RG8X At 150 ft on 446.00 At 25 watts

Results 11.983 Loss Power Out going to the Ant 1..584 Watts, Hard to believe 25 Watts In and only 1.5 Watts out . and don't forget that Effects the Receive too, So it kind of defeats the purpose of a Gain Ant . Get Better Coax.

Use this Calculator Put in Some different Coax Types, Freqs , Power Length Etc. and you will be surprised.

Example, I will never forget with a lot of Hard work , I ran 125 Ft. of what I thought was Good Low loss coax up a Tower to a 3DB Gain Ant Cut for 856.2125 , Came back in the radio room to relax and enjoy My Scanner Icom R-7000 With S-Meter the signal had a lot of noise and was below S-1 , I started to remove the Coax and the signal got stronger, I grabbed a Paper Clip and cut about 3 in and the Signal came in loud and clear with a S- meter reading of a 9 . . Wow Coax loss big time, I finally picked up a used piece of hard-line Coax Big difference. Many will say Coax Loss will not affect the Receive but I beg to differ on that.

Happy Scanning  
Don KA9QJG

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.