

---

---

# CQ BARS

---

---

Volume XXVI Issue 04

April 2008

---

---

## President's Corner

I apologize for not being at the last meeting due to a budget meeting at Lemont but understand everything went well. Its that time of year that we need to be prepared for severe weather and getting their equipment together and being ready to go. Don't forget to put a "go" bag together with flashlight, batteries, raincoat, portable radio, and non-perishable food. During a severe weather net please listen to the net control. They have a lot going on. Lets be safe out there if you're mobile. Were not asking you to go out its up to you whether you do or not. Just be safe and watch your surroundings incase you need to get out or have to find a safe place to go. The Bars 440 and 220 repeater is still off the air and hopefully we will have it back up soon. I'm still working with the hospital and getting a quote for a new repeater. I hope to have more news by next meeting. Hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather were having. Hope to see ya all at the next meeting.

Be safe,  
Tom, N9LJY  
BARS President

## Secretary's Column

I keep cutting my column short to make room for more interesting news.

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

## Last Months Meeting Minutes

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

N9ABF	WE9EHQ	WA9IL
KC9LCT	WB9PDD	N9WRS
KB9JLB	KA9J	KC9JLK
NE9G	KC9JQW	N9VJV

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KC9JLK (Marianne), seconded by WA9IL (John) and carried

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

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**2 meter:** No Report.

**220/440** WA9IL (John) reported that the 440 machine is still using a loaner repeater from N2BJ (Barry). Currently there is no PL. There is a possibility that we will be able to move the repeater to the new hospital. We're waiting on them for further actions. American Water has refused to pay for repairs or replacement of the damaged repeater.

**Net Control:** KC9JLK (Marianne) reported good checkins.

**Hamfest:** KC9JQW (AJ) reported that we have a good variety of committed speakers.

**Education:** No Report. Still need a volunteer to chair.

**VE:** No Report

**Field Day:** KC9JQW (AJ) reported that we still need band chairs.

**Public Relations:** No Report.

**Skywarn:** KC9JQW (AJ) reported there will be training sessions in Lockport on 3/18 and DuPage on 3/24.



## OLD BUSINESS:

N9ABF (Jim) is still looking for submissions for the web page. He's looking for Pictures, links, articles, and suggestions.

WA9IL (John) said that we should be encouraging other hams to come out to meetings.

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

## NEW BUSINESS:

KC9JLK (Marianne) requested that we consider starting the meetings at 7:30 instead of 7:00. N9ABF (Jim) will put a survey on the web site with a member ID to gather members views.

It was suggested that we consider getting a club PayPal account to facilitate getting payments for dues and Hamfest. N9ABF (Jim) will investigate the terms of Service.

A motion to close old business was made by KC9JLK (Marianne), seconded by N9ABF (Jim) and carried.

## 2

A motion to adjourn was made by KB9JLB (Barb), seconded by KC9JLK (Marianne) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don, N9VJV  
Secretary

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

Here is the March 2008 Net Report:

Total check-ins: 69  
Total First time: 3

Total number of Hams checking in for 2007: 157  
Total number of Hams checking in for 2008: 63

Top Five check-ins for 2008:

Bryan, KC9GRH.....13  
Joe, KC9ERT.....13  
Bob, N9RAT.....13  
Lavert, KA9CCH.....11  
Marianne, KC9JLK.....9  
Tom, N9LJY.....9

Host with the Most:

Marianne, KC9JLK.....54 Check-ins  
John, WD9IWC.....58 Check-ins  
Archie, N9ZMM.....106 Check-ins

Numbers do not count the Net Controller

Archie Hawley, N9ZMM  
Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society  
\*NET Control Coordinator  
\*BARS Foxhunt Coordinator

### Looking For Ways to Show Off Ham Radio? Ward Silver, N0AX

We all know about Field Day and many clubs make an extra effort to set up in a public place, just to publicize our favorite hobby. But outside of Field Day, the opportunities may not be quite so obvious. Here's a story about a club that scored big for Amateur Radio and had a great time in the process.

Readers of Make Magazine (<http://makezine.com>) know about the massive demonstrations of hands-on do-stuff activities called Make's Faire. (<http://makerfaire.com>) With a theme of "Build, craft, hack, play, make", I'll bet you're interested already! Make is just one of the many "do-it-yourself" centers of activity - magazines, Web sites, blogs, TV shows - that are enjoying a resurgence of interest as folks take an interest in "what's under the hood." Maker Faire draws thousands of motivated, interested, tech-friendly attendees that wander the aisles soaking up the various activities on display. They sound like ham radio's kind of folks, don't they? Yes, they do, and more than 25,000 attended the Austin Maker Faire in October 2007.

If you browse the Maker Faire Web site, you'll see that under the "Participate" menu, in the "Call for Makers" selection, Ham Radio is a prominent entry! Last year, the Austin Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.austinhams.org>) took the lead in setting up shop for Maker Faire and drew a steady stream of visitors, from kids eager to shout into the microphone connected to an oscilloscope to adults and teens interested in learning more about Amateur Radio. Led by Jeff Schmidt N5MNW, the club did such a good job of illustrating the many interesting activities of ham radio that the

## CQ BARS

organizers awarded them an Editor's Choice prize! Well done!

There is an upcoming Maker Faire in San Mateo, CA and last year the event drew over 40,000 makers. These large events are a small portion of the many smaller events around the country that take place in every town in every state. There are science fairs, technology demonstrations, career days, street festivals, and so on. The organizers are often seeking interesting displays and exhibits, particularly from local groups. They are not so much interested in slick, commercial displays - they want real people, just like you, to show off their skills and what interests them. It's not necessary to assemble a huge and intimidating display of equipment - just start building a kit, hook up a meter and let people measure their skin resistance, set out some books and fliers (many available from the ARRL), and prepare to answer lots of questions! Space is often available just for the offering - send an email or make a phone call and find out.

For a good look at the enthusiasm generated by the Maker Faire, watch the Quicktime movie at [http://www.rocketboom.net/video/maker\\_faire/austin/bre.mov](http://www.rocketboom.net/video/maker_faire/austin/bre.mov).

(This takes a little while to load...) The do-it-yourself ethic is returning, like the swallows to Capistrano. Your club will enjoy presenting ham radio - where hands-on lives on! As the Maker Faire folks say, "This is the place to be, right now, in the world today!"

Does ham radio have a place in that world?

Are you kidding - we helped invent it!

### ARRL EXPO REVVING UP FOR THE 2008 DAYTON HAMVENTION

ARRL EXPO Coordinator Katie Breen, W1KRB, tells that plans for the ARRL EXPO <<http://www.arrl.org/expo>> at this year's Dayton Hamvention <<http://www.hamvention.org>> are coming together nicely. "Our current focus is on the new look and feel of our space. In past Hamventions, Forum Room 5 was located adjacent to the ARRL space. It is now moving to the Silver Arena, giving us more room and the opportunity to spread out a bit and do more creative things inside the EXPO."

Breen said that the ARRL EXPO team is looking at expanding the Field Services area to accommodate more programs and activities, including a larger meet-and-greet area for members to visit with ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, as well as the many other League officials and staff who will be on hand to answer any questions.

"The Field Services area will boast a large interactive display devoted to Logbook of the World <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>> for real time demonstrations, as well as a question-and-answer session with ARRL Web and Software Development Manager and LoTW developer Jon Bloom, KE3Z," Breen added.

Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check DX cards and applications for all ARRL awards; JARRL personnel will check cards and applications for JARRL awards. All cards, including old cards, cards from deleted countries and cards for 160 meters, will be eligible for checking. Applications will be limited to 120 cards; more cards will be checked as time and volunteer Card Checkers are available. See the DXCC Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>> for the latest program information and current forms.

The ARRL Bookstore and Membership area will continue to buzz with activity, particularly with all of the new publications and products being offered this year. QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will be on hand to sign your new copy of "ARRL's VHF Digital Handbook." QST Contributing Editor and author of the

popular QST column "Hands-On Radio" H. Ward Silver, N0AX, will also be available to sign copies of his latest book, "ARRL's Hands-on Radio Experiments." The new desktop and pocket-sized versions of the "ARRL Repeater Directory" are sure to be a hit with their new handy indexing tabs on the cover, easier-to-read listings and "Key to Repeater Notes" located right up front.

Visit the Dayton Hamvention Web site

<<http://www.hamvention.org/hv2008/tickets/tickets.html>> to buy tickets at the discounted rate. Hotel rooms are filling up, so don't think twice

-- if you've always wanted to attend Hamvention and have never had the chance, make this year your year to go. Hotels in the Dayton area can be found at the Dayton Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau Web site

<<http://www.daytoncvb.com/accommodations/>>. Keep updated with ARRL EXPO activities on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/expo>>.

### **Spring Storm Readiness**

#### Spring Yields Tame To Tempest

The long awaited spring will arrive none too soon. With it comes more tolerable temperatures and those flower sprouting showers you hear songs about. But the core of this season's rain activity isn't portrayed as gentle showers as much as in pounding thunderstorms. The contrast in temperature between the receding grip of winter and summer's northward advance will determine their intensity. Storms can vary from a distant annoyance to a raging overhead fury. Your best defense is to hope for the best while preparing for the worst.

Your first line of defense when threatening weather approaches is not to panic. Cooler heads prevail. Should you hear sirens alerting you of impending danger, or you personally see damage occurring from advancing storms, seek shelter along the wall of your basement. If you have no basement, retreat to a central first floor room with no outside walls. This could be a bathroom or closet.

Let's prepare even further ahead. While the weather is placid, make a plan now for where you will go when the worst occurs. Should your home become unlivable after an event, you will need a money resource and ID to hold out until your home is restored. To avoid these things being lost in the storm, prepare now what you will collect enroute to your shelter. Know where these items are at all times so you don't spend precious time looking for them. Keep a bag or satchel at the ready to collect them on the run. Some of these items should include any cash, your checkbook, charge cards, driver's license, and your car keys in case your vehicle survives. This is your survival kit, the seed to putting your life back together.

The National Weather Service classifies "severe" thunderstorms as producing 3/4 inch diameter hail or greater, strong wind downbursts of 58 mph or more, or a storm producing a tornado. National outlooks for the probability of severe storms will be issued days ahead of time with suspected trouble areas covering whole regions of the country. Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Watches are usually issued hours before storms appear or blossom into severe stage and may cover several states. If you are included in a Watch area, this is a good time to gather your valuables or take note of where they are. Watches are in effect for many hours and are not specific when or where any one location will experience severe thunderstorms.

Warnings are issued when a severe thunderstorm or tornado has been reported or determined by local radar to be imminent. A

warning will be cause for local authorities to sound the sirens for your area. These are issued for a period of an hour or less, covering parts of an individual county. A Severe Thunderstorm Warning implies the large hail and/or high winds, as defined above, with the possibilities of tornadoes. A Tornado Warning implies specifically that a tornado has been spotted in or near your area.

While most receive their alerts via siren or the television crawl, the quickest reception will be through NOAA weather radio. Technology has come a long way since the old weather band radios. You can now purchase crystal controlled weather alert radios from a local electronics store. These modern day weather radios can be programmed to a local frequency to alert you of any warnings issued in or near your community. In non-threatening weather, you can use them to keep abreast of current weather conditions and forecasts, commercial-free. Warnings will interrupt the regular forecasts within seconds of their issuance from the National Weather Service. And the faster you are aware of the danger, the more time you have to take cover.

### **ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST SCHEDULED FOR MAY**

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio communications tests in celebration of the 58th anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on May 17, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 10 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention, scheduled for May 16-18.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur crossband communications SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

Look for schedules and frequencies of participating military stations to be published in May on the Army MARS Web site <<http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS>>.

### **Exhibit Kits Available for Field Day:**

Visit the ARRL Field Day information page <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>> for all the details on Field Day rules, frequencies, forms, pins, logos and T shirts. The complete Field Day packet <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2008-packet.pdf>> can be downloaded from the site as well. If you have unanswered questions about Field Day, contact ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, via e-mail <[fdinfo@arrl.org](mailto:fdinfo@arrl.org)> or by phone at 860-594-0236. If you want to order exhibit kits containing printed flyers about Amateur Radio, you may order these materials on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/brochures/>>. The cost of the exhibit kits ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To make sure you'll have the display material in time for Field Day, your order must be received before June 13. ARRL Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June; in 2008, it is June 28-29.

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.