
CQ BARS

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December 2008

President's Corner

First of all, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! We will hold our annual Christmas party at our Dec. 15th meeting. The club will be providing pizzas and pop, and we ask everyone to bring a dish to share. Also, we will hold our usual holiday raffle extravaganza during the party. The party is open to all members and their guests, so don't miss it!

I would like to give a special thanks to Bolingbrook Mayor Roger Claar, Herman McKenzie of Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital and his staff, and Assistant Fire Chief Meiroop for the support we received in installing the two repeaters in the penthouse of the hospital. Once again I'd also like to thank Barry and Andy from United Radio for donating and installing the antennas and feedline for the 220/440 repeaters. This is a good example of local government, business, and local organizations working together to provide communications for a safer community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

Tom, N9LJY
BARS President

Secretary's Column

It's Party Time!! Don't forget the December meeting will also be our Christmas party. Get your goodies ready and make sure your spouse is invited. It seems that food is one thing that brings out the best in Hams. Be on your best behavior, though. Mayor Claar and the Police Chief and Fire chief are among other special guests who have been invited!!

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), KC9JQW (AJ), and KC9JLK (Marianne). Also present at the meeting were:

KC9GRH	KC9JLK	KC9OON
KA9CCH	KC9BST	N9LJY
N9ZMM	KC9GSL	KC9JQW
KA9J	KB9JLB	W9WRS
KB9LMK	KC9BKP	WB9PDD
N9VJV		

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KC9GRH (Bryan), seconded by N9ZMM (Archie) and carried

KC9JLK (Marianne) presented the Treasurer's report. No motion required.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: KC9BLP (Andy) reported that it's working.

220/440 WA9IL (John) reported the 440 machine is up and running with a PL of 114.8. New coax has been installed. It is 80 feet lower than the old machine. He will continue to tune.

Echolink will be coming soon. The 220 machine is having problems with the duplexer. They will try to get it repaired.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported that checkins are getting slightly better. There may be an informal net on Thanksgiving.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported that the decision as to whether to continue to have a Hamfest needs to be made. A poll will be going up on the web site to determine the membership's feelings about continuing to hold a hamfest. It's still an unknown if the state will have a convention next year. If we do have one we will need to have committed help.

Education: No Report. KC9JQW is asking for volunteers to make presentations.

VE: No report.

Field Day: No report

Public Relations: No Report.

Skywarn: No report

OLD BUSINESS:

None

A motion to close old business was made by K9JTB (Bill), seconded by KA9CCH (Levert) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominations were made by written ballot for the annual awards: Service, Achievement, and Ham of Year. N9vjv (Don) collected the ballots for counting. The awards will be presented at the next month's meeting.

The Christmas Party will be at the next month's meeting. The club will furnish Pizza and pop. Members are asked to bring other treats.

A motion to close new business was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by KA9CCH (Levert) and carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by KC9GRH (Bryan), seconded by N9QOB (Ron) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

November 2008 Thursday Night Net Report

I am sorry for missing the October report I had computer problems early in the month and thought I had sent it. However I wish I did it was the second best month behind January of 2008.

November was brought down because of how many weeks we had. But I did see an increase in Board members checking in...way to go!

For those of you that know our nets, knows that December is the last chance to add up your number of check ins. Because at the January meeting I will be giving the award out for the Ham with the most check ins in 2008. We seem to have a tie with Bryan, KC9GRH and Bob, N9RAT. Keep up the good work guys!

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

From WD9AYR (Ed)

Amateur Radio license classes 2009

Want to talk to far off places, provide communication in an emergency, or just learn more about radio communication? Well here is your chance. The DuPage Amateur Radio Club will be offering a 10-week course for the entry level in the basics of radio communications. At the end of 10 weeks, a test will be given to obtain an Amateur Radio Operators License.

As of Jan 1st, required text cost \$25.00, and the test for the Amateur license is currently \$15.00.

Space is limited, no more than 20 students.

Date and time" January 10, Sat 9 AM – noon.

Class will be held at the Woodridge Park District, 2600 Center Drive. Call Woodridge Park District to register 630-353-3300.

From our Section Manager KA9QPN (Tom):

We are waiting eagerly for the convening of the General Assembly after the new year to see if the seeds planted by Brad Pioveson W9FX and Charlie Richey K9DUE bear fruit in the introduction of a bill establishing an Illinois PRB-1. The time for reasoned comments and positive letters to our representatives will be after the bill is introduced. Perhaps a refresher of what a PRB-1 clone can and cannot do is in order. PRB-1 states that public regulatory bodies other than the FCC may not place undue restrictions on antennas and antenna structures. It does not speak to or relieve private covenants. The jurisdiction can require permits, fees, engineering studies, and zoning variances. They may regulate tower height within reason. The bottom line is that erection of an antenna cannot be arbitrarily denied by a public entity under the various flavors of PRB-1.

The club election results are trickling in. I'm struck by several patterns. First, the 'reelection' of folks to the same offices. Then, there's the reshuffling of names among the positions. A subset of the first two items is the tendency for there to be one candidate for each office. This tells me that the 80/20 rule is still being enforced in our clubs: 80% of the work is done by 20% of the membership. I don't care how selfless that these folks are: they will burn out. (And God love them all for what they do!) I challenge the 80%-ers...stick your neck out. If not for an elective office, then a committee. Field Days and hamfests don't run themselves. Still too much for you? Volunteer to execute a program for the next meeting. Either you know something or know somebody that would appeal to the group as a meeting topic. Do something. Get off the chair along the wall and join in the dance. It's why you joined the club, right?

Your club may be contacted by our ACC, Eric Rademacher K9KQB or his designate shortly. He'll be soliciting cooperation in an FCC project to disseminate information on the upcoming DTV conversion. This doesn't involve installation or distribution of hardware. Information only is to be dispensed via our clubs. Please give Eric all possible assistance.

SKYWARN Recognition Day appeared to be well observed among the several NWS offices which serve the Section. I personally had a very pleasant QSO with WX9LOT at NWS-Chicago/Romeoville on the evening of 5 December. This as the ham contingent there circulated among the area repeaters in order to enhance participation. It seems as if a wonderful time was had by all.

ARRL to Offer Self-Study Course on Digital Technology for Emergency Communications

A sample of what The ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communication Course offers.

With digital technology becoming an integral part of Amateur Radio, hams interested in Emergency Communications now have a new tool to help them take advantage of emerging modes such as Packet Radio APRS, Winlink 2000, IRLP, EchoLink and WIRES-II, D-STAR, APCO25, HF sound card modes and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). The ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communications Course <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1247> will introduce hams to all of the ways Amateur Radio operators are using digital technology as a valuable emergency communications tool.

Written by ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, this self-study CD-ROM will answer such questions as:

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Can you transfer supply lists or personnel assignments between emergency operations sites?

Can you get critical e-mails to the Internet if a connection goes down?

Can you relay digital images of damage at specific locations?

Can you track the locations of emergency personnel and display them on computer maps?

...and more!

Illustrations, screenshots, Internet links and audio files are used to demonstrate transmission modes and equipment configurations. Bite-sized learning units and interactive knowledge checks make learning interesting and fun!

"This course is a great starting point for anyone interested in the public service applications of digital communications technology," said Ford. The ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communications Course is available from the ARRL for only \$49.95.

Minimum System Requirements for CD-ROM -- Microsoft Windows Vista/XP/2000/NT/98/95 or Apple OS X; 200 MHz processor; 32 MB RAM; sound card and speakers; 4-speed CD-ROM drive or higher. Requires Web browser -- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0, Mozilla Firefox 2.0, Apple Safari 3.0 or later versions. Some documents require Adobe Reader.

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From our own WA9IQL (Elden):

CQ COMMUNICATIONS ACQUIRES WORLDRADIO MAGAZINE

(Hicksville, NY and Sacramento, CA, November 12, 2008)
-- CQ Communications, Inc. has acquired WorldRadio magazine, CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA and WorldRadio Publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, announced jointly today. CQ, based in Hicksville, New York, currently publishes CQ Amateur Radio, CQ VHF and Popular Communications magazines.

WorldRadio, based in Sacramento, California, has been published monthly since July, 1971, with a primary focus on the human side of ham radio. CQ, a general-interest ham radio magazine best known for its support of DXing and contesting, has been in print since January, 1945.

Armond Noble, N6WR, Publisher of WorldRadio, said that at the age of 74 the time had come for him to retire. "I wanted to be sure that WorldRadio found a good home, and that our readers would continue to be served by an independent voice in amateur radio," Noble said.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said, "WorldRadio has filled an important niche in our hobby for nearly four decades. We welcome WorldRadio's readers to the CQ family, and we look forward to meeting their needs for many years to come."

Current plans call for WorldRadio to continue to be published online as part of the CQ family of magazines, with Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position. WorldRadio subscribers will also have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

Free Online Ham Practice Exams and Study Materials

KD0FNR Hamilton Carter has created a set of free online exam practice tests that he hopes hams will find useful.

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Within the practice tests, online study resources, (Wikipedia, NASA, ARRL, etc...), are provided for many of the questions. The list of resources available for each question is constantly growing because users can add their own favorite links to the study materials. Users can also track their test scores over time and see which subelements are giving them the most trouble. You can see all the practice tests at:
<http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/>

The tests were mentioned recently on kb6nu.com at:
<http://kb6nu.com/new-online-test/>

you can also see comments about the practice exams on the QRZ forums:
<http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=180904>

GLOBAL EMERGENCY NETWORK MARKS RECORD

The Global ALE High Frequency Network (HFN) <<http://hfink.net/>> -- an international Amateur Radio Service organization of ham operators dedicated to emergency/relief radio communications -- has become the first network to operate continuously for more than 500 days on all international Amateur Radio shortwave bands simultaneously.

According to HFN International ALE Coordinator Bonnie Crystal, KQ6XA, the main purpose of the Network is to provide efficient emergency and disaster relief communications to remote areas of the world. "Beginning with a core group of six North American radio operators in June 2007, HFN rapidly expanded to cover large areas of the planet with 24/7 digital communications," she said. "HFN was designed to be an open framework for global Amateur Radio emergency services to interoperate on HF using the Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) system."
<<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/ale.html>>

Relying on ionospheric radio communications, interconnected HFN base stations scan the radio bands every 10 seconds, from 3.5 MHz-28.0 MHz.

Through this Net, Crystal said, ham operators stay connected with each other at all hours of the day or night in any mode of operation, and can send Internet e-mail or cell phone mobile text messages from the field.

Canadian Amateurs Receive Limited 500 kHz Privileges:

On November 10, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) announced that Industry Canada, which regulates Amateur Radio in that country, has accepted an RAC proposal for selected Canadian radio amateurs to operate in the vicinity of 500 kHz. The proposal states that RAC would recommend amateurs who would be licensed to operate in the 504-509 kHz band with a maximum power of 20 W ERP and bandwidth up to 1 kHz. Stations operating in this band would be technically operating under Special Developmental Licenses, although they would all be radio amateurs. Distinct call signs would be used and the licenses would be renewable on an annual basis, subject to the amateur demonstrating the research he has carried out. According to the RAC, these amateur operations would support Canada's efforts to place a proposal on the agenda of the 2011 World Radio Conference (WRC-11), which, if adopted, would create an amateur allocation in the 600 meter band. The US, under the auspices of the ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental Station, WD2XSH, is also conducting research in this band. Canada is the eighth country to do experimentation on 55 kHz; along with the US and Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Romania are also participating. More information on the Canadian proposal will be posted to the RAC Web site as it becomes available.

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.