
CQ BARS

Volume XXV Issue 02

Feb 2008

President's Corner

Well I hope everyone is staying warm during this cold snap. Also I heard we had good attendance at last month's BARS meeting. I hope it continues to grow each month, because there is a lot down the road for the club to participate in. As many of you may already know the 440 repeater was flooded out in the South Janes tower, and is being temporarily replaced by Barry's (N2BJ) backup repeater, until we can fix or replace ours. Thank You Barry, for loaning us your backup repeater! I have been in contact with the Mayor, and with his help we have a meeting with the new hospital to discuss moving our repeaters (220,440) to their location. The initial response was positive and hopefully I will have more information for you at our next meeting. I have also sent a letter, on behalf of our club, to Illinois American Water, owner of the water tower at South Janes Ave, requesting them to replace the repeater, due to the lack of safe guards at their facility. They did respond to my letter and wanted some information, which I sent them last week. I am hoping this can be resolved quickly, if not we need to think of other solutions to acquire a new repeater. If anyone has any ideas please bring them up at our next meeting. I will need a committee and a chairperson to coordinate these efforts. As you can see the club is moving forward in a positive direction, your participation is very important to making BARS a successful club and an asset to the community.

See ya on the radio

Tom N9LJY

Secretary's Column

I keep cutting my column short to make room for more interesting news. Last month we began the process of setting up committees for the upcoming Hamfest. Yes, it's a long way off, but there's plenty that needs to be done right now to get ready for it. Please consider where you may be able to help and let's get the committees fleshed out this month. A lot of people each doing a little but can make it another success.

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:

WD9AYR	NW9V	N9ZMM
WB9PDD	W9WRS	MA9IL
KA9SFW	KB9JLB	KA9J
KC9HSL	KC9JLK	KC9JXD
KA9CCH	N9MF	WA9IQL
N9VJV	KC9JQW	

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by WA9IL (John), seconded by WD9AYR (Ed) 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 was not operational because of flooding in the water tower. N9LJY (Tom) will be meeting with the Village Atty.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported good checkins. The prize for the most checking was KC9GRH (Bryan). The Host with the Most was KC9JXD (Marianne).

Hamfest: KC9JQW (AJ) is setting up committees.

Education: No Report. Need a volunteer to chair.

VE: NQ9V (Phil) reported that he is now certified to teach the EmCom classes. The fee will be \$14 and will be held on the same day/location as the VE testing but will be separate. The next VE session will be 2/16.

Field Day: NW9V (Phil) reported that we need band chairs. We will use the same location as last year.

Public Relations No report.

2

Skywarn: NW9V (Phil) reported that 1/7 was the first incident of the year. Spotter training sessions are on the NWS website. 3/18 will be held at Lockport HS at 7 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

A motion to close old business was made by KC9JLK (Marianne), seconded by NW9V (Phil) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

KC9JLK (Marianne) has tickets available for the WCRA Hamfest.

Hamfest Committees:

Security – WA9IL (John) volunteered to chair

Publicity – Need Chair

Educational Forums – Need Chair

VE Testing – Need Chair

Sales – Need Chair

Facilities – KA9SFW (Jim) volunteered to chair

A motion to close new business was made by KC9JLK (Marianne), seconded by WX9WRN (Toni), and carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by NW9V (Phil), seconded by WA9IL (John) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

Thursday Night net Statistics courtesy of N9ZMM (Archie)

I would like to congratulate Marianne, KC9JLK for winning the "Host of the Most" award, you can see her and the trophy on the BARS website. Also congrats to Bryan, KC9GRH for winning the "Most Check-ins" award for the second time in the row.

To everyone else this is a new year, you can be the next top check-in for 2008. You can also be the Top Dog as the host, just let me know. I'm always looking for others to help out doing the net.

73s

Archie, N9ZMM

Here is the January 2008 Net Report:

Total check-ins: 91

Total First time: 5

Total number of Hams checking in for 2007: 157

Total number of Hams checking in for 2008: 45

Top Five check-ins for 2008:

Bryan, KC9GRH.....5

Joe, KC9ERT.....5

Bob, N9RAT.....5

Levert, KA9CCH.....4

Bill, W9WRS.....4

Ed, WD9AYR.....4

Host with the Most:

Marianne, KC9JLK.....26 Check-ins

John, WD9IWC.....40 Check-ins

Archie, N9ZMM.....25 Check-ins

CQ BARS

Numbers do not count the Net Controller

AIR FORCE ADDS MORE REPEATERS TO CALIFORNIA PAVE PAWS PROBLEM LIST

A second round of testing by US Air Force engineers has resulted in the identification of an additional seventy-five 70 cm repeaters in Northern California that must adjust their operations to eliminate harmful interference to the PAVE PAWS Updated Early Warning Radar (UEWR) located at Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento. As a result of these additions, new strategies for handling the situation are being put into place by the ARRL and the FCC.

"While ARRL knew that there was the possibility of additional repeaters being added in the follow-up list of those requiring mitigation, we are surprised by the large number of additions to the list," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "After our discussions with FCC officials, they are becoming actively involved in ensuring that the correct repeaters have been identified and that the mitigation being required is what is actually needed to resolve the ongoing problem in each case."

Henderson continued: "From the discussions with the Air Force, it is clear that the PAVE PAWS issue is going to be a continuing process. The ARRL needs to be involved since there can be additional repeaters identified as the Department of Defense continues testing at their radar sites."

To expedite any new mitigation actions needed due to the enlarged list, the FCC has now taken on the lead role of making initial contact with the owners of these newly identified repeaters. "The FCC has asked the ARRL to continue its work of aiding affected repeater owners with suggested mitigation actions," Henderson stated. "However, since any mandatory enforcement action would have to come from the FCC, it makes sense for them to take the lead at this point in time."

The ARRL will continue to provide information to individual repeater owners on specific mitigation techniques as well as information to the general amateur population. "We are committed to continuing to work with the Department of Defense, FCC and the Amateur Radio community to meet the amateurs' responsibilities as secondary users. But we are not an enforcement agency. Our goal is to ensure that the impact on amateurs in the 70 cm band is the least possible, consistent with those responsibilities," Henderson said.

A teleconference was held between representatives of the DoD, FCC and ARRL on Thursday, January 17 to assess the status of the repeaters on the initial DoD list, as well as discuss the strategies for working with repeater owners on the new, second, follow-up DoD list as quickly as possible.

During this conference call, Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC confirmed he had been in contact with repeater owners from the first DoD list who had not indicated their compliance with mitigation numbers provided by the ARRL in early Fall 2007. Hollingsworth reported he has had a positive response from each owner with whom he had spoken so far. There were several who had to be contacted via regular mail (instead of e-mail or telephone) who have not yet responded.

Hollingsworth also planned to start making contact with the owners of repeaters on the second list and begin the process towards amateur compliance within a short period of time. "Once a repeater owner has been contacted, the ARRL is ready to

3

support their efforts in meeting the mitigation requirement," said Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL Laboratory Manager.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, pointed out that any specific enforcement action or shut-down order from the FCC involving amateurs also provides for due process in those proceedings. He emphasized that even though amateurs have a secondary allocation status in the band, the DoD has the burden of proving that specific repeaters are causing harmful interference on a case-by-case basis.

ARISS TEAM LOOKING FOR GROUND STATIONS

Do you want to be part of the international network of ground stations that help support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) operations? ARISS is looking to add numerous ground stations capable of relaying ISS Amateur Radio sessions with schools and also serve as back-up communications relays should they be needed. Locations all over the world will be considered, but the greatest need for stations is in Central America, South America, Falkland Islands, Western Australia, Canada and Alaska.

The following are guidelines for stations wanting to be considered: Third Party agreement with United States or waiver from their telecom agency; ability to speak and understand English; minimal horizon obstructions; 24/7 access and availability of station; operator(s) willing to support scheduled contacts at various times; phone patch; AZ/EL tracking satellite system, preferably an auto tracking system with the capability for manual override; multi-element Yagis for 2 meters and 70 cm (circular polarization preferred); pre-amps and transmit output greater than 70 W. If you can specify your station's EIRP and receive sensitivity (thereby taking into account cable losses, pre-amps and antenna gain), it would be greatly appreciated.

Stations that can support the following will be given special consideration, but these items are not required: Auto Doppler adjustment of frequencies; ability to speak and understand languages other than English; 1.2 and 2.4 GHz satellite hardware; Packet; SSTV; Digital ATV; redundant power system, and high-speed Internet.

If you or your club would like to be considered for selection as one of the new ARISS ground stations, send an e-mail <ARISS-telebridge@amsat.org> to ARISS with details about your station and contact information. -- Information provided by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, ARISS International Chairman

SATELLITE SERVES AS VOICE REPEATER -- UPLINKS ON FM, DOWNLINKS ON SIDEBAND

Launched in January 1990, AMSAT-OSCAR 16 (AO-16) -- a digital satellite -- has been unavailable for use while the command team dealt with a serious computer problem. The satellite has since been recovered, and is now a voice repeater, at least for an unspecified "test period" using FM voice on the uplink, but transmits DSB voice on the downlink (best received on SSB).

Since AO-16 was recovered approximately six months ago, the command team -- Bruce Rahn, WB9ANQ, Jim White, WD0E, and Mark Hammond, N8MH -- attempted to reload the satellite software almost a dozen times without success. The team performed a series of memory tests that pointed toward a hardware failure that prevented the spacecraft software from restarting successfully.

AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, said, "After concluding that the spacecraft computer system was

CQ BARS

damaged, and as discussions about decommissioning were taking place, Jim recalled a series of low-level commands that Tom Clark, K3IO, included in the spacecraft design during construction. One of these commands allows an uplink receiver to be directly tied to a downlink transmitter. The twist is that the uplink is regular FM, but the downlink via the BPSK transmitter is DSB (Double Sideband). Mark placed the satellite in this mode early this week and did some testing."

Glasbrenner said the satellite hears very well; the reduced bandwidth by using either USB or LSB on the ground station receiver "allows for a very robust downlink. Tuning the downlink is just like on a linear transponder, meaning it is tight and with fast Doppler. Uplink tuning is not required, just as with the FM mode V/U satellites. My personal observations include being able to access and hear the satellite within one degree of the horizon, much lower than any other current bird for my location [in Florida]. This should be an easy satellite with omni antennas and a 70 cm preamp."

Glasbrenner said that he would like to open the satellite to general use for a test period. The uplink is 145.920 FM, and the downlink is 437.026 SSB +/- Doppler shift. He asks that users restrict their uplink power to a reasonable power level, and do not transmit without being able to hear the downlink; all general single-channel guidelines apply. Please submit reports via e-mail <ao16@amsat.org>. "Enjoy this bird's new life!" Glasbrenner said.

Field Day Packets Coming Soon:

Get ready for ARRL Field Day, June 28-29, 2008. Packets will be available during the first week of February. Packets include the complete rules (including changes for 2008). Other reference items that will be available include forms, Section abbreviations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.

ADVANCED SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER SEMINAR

MARCH 15, 2008
WHEATON COLLEGE STUDENT CENTER
8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION (PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 29, 2008):
\$30.00 ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 29, INCLUDING AT THE DOOR: \$40.00

Information & Registration Form Attached & at:
<http://weather.cod.edu/skywarn/spotter2008.pdf>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
DUPAGE COUNTY OEM
630-682-7925

N0HR Software & Resources

N0HR's ham radio website, <http://www.n0hr.com> has many free resources for ham radio:

The Ham Radio Toolbar for Internet Explorer & Firefox:
http://www.n0hr.com/Ham_Radio_Toolbar.htm

HamLinks is a free ham radio toolbar that extends your (Internet Explorer or Firefox) web browser to give ham radio operators quick access to great ham radio content. It's completely free, easy to install (and uninstall) and can be configured by the user. No registrations, spyware, spam or other hooks.

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.