
CQ BARS

Volume XXV Issue 01

Jan 2008

President's Corner

I Well a New Year is here and hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. I was glad to see a good turnout at the Christmas party and everyone enjoying themselves! I would like to say thank you again you, the members for nominating me for Ham of Year & Service award. Also would like to say congrats to Archie N9ZMM on his Achievement award. There are a lot of hard working members and wish I could give you all an award! I hope as time goes on that the membership will increase and build upon our Bars team that we have now. We are a team and you, and me, we can make it better! We have Fieldday and the State convention coming up and will need everyone; the Bars team to make this a success! I will have a sign up sheet for the different committees that need to be filled and also a sign up sheet for Fieldday. We will need Band Chairman, operators both phone, cw, and relief operators. Team we can do this and be fun again! I'm extending an invitation to those past members to rejoin us and take a look at the New Bars Club!

On a final note, I would like to thank Jim N9ABF for his long hours in updating the BARS web page. This hasn't been easy but Jim has done an outstanding job and there are more updates coming. Most of the pages are working and links. If you have any ideas for Jim please email him through the website.

Our next meeting will be January 21, 2008 7pm.

Happy New Year

Tom N9LJY

Secretary's Column

We want to thank KA9G (Frank) for his demo of his Doppler Direction Finding equipment after last month's meeting. It was a fascinating example of a construction project and ending up with a useful piece of equipment. Thank you, Frank for sharing with us. We hope that this will be just the first of many more after meeting presentations. Do we have any other volunteers??

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV



Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:00 hours by N9LJY (Tom). Introductions followed. Officers present were: KC9JQW (AJ). N9VJV (Don) and KB9JLB (Barb) .Also present at the meeting were:

KB9JLB	KA9J	KC9JXD
KC9JTW	W9WRS	WX9WRN
KA9HZH	KB9LMK	WB9PDD
N9QOB	KC0GMB	KA9SFW
N9ZMM	KC9GRH	KC9JLK
KC9CCH	W9KHX	NW9V
KZ9ZJJ	N9OZD	KB9R
WA9IQL	N9LJY	N9CVC

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by NW9V (Phil), seconded by KA9ZJJ (Marti) 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 now operational. The 220 Machine is also up and running. Echolink is coming soon.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported good checkins.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported the Bolingbrook High School is confirmed as the location.

Education: No Report. Need a volunteer to chair. Who has the tapes??

VE: W9KHX (Dale) reported that the last session produced 1 General. He is considering changing the dates. Emcom 1, 2, & 3 exams are a possibility.

Field Day: N9LJY (Tom) reported that we are going to be looking for band chairs.

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Public Relations: KA9ZJJ (Marti) reported that the web site is up and running on a new server. Thanks to N9ABF (Jim), WA9IL (John), and WA9IQL (Elden).

Skywarn: Phil (NW9V) reported that Skywarn Recognition Day saw about 600 contacts. Teardown was early because of the weather. Spotting classes are being scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS:

The awared were presented:
Ham of Year – N9LJY (Tom)
Service – N9LJY (Tom)
Achievement N9ZMM (Archie)

N9ZMM (Archie) reported that the next fox hunt will be in Feb. Contact him at N9ZMM@sbcglobal.net if interested.

A motion to close old business was made by NW9V (Phil) , seconded by KC9JXT (Chris) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

KC9JTW (AJ) put out a call for ham related photos (labeled if possible). E-Mail them to the webmaster.

A motion to close new business was made by KA9ZJJ (Marti), seconded by KB9LMK (Dale), and carried

A motion to adjourn was made by N9QOB (Ron), seconded by KA9SFW (Jim) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

Thursday Night net Statistics courtesy of N9ZMM (Archie)

First I would like to thank all those that checked into the net over the year. I know I had fun and I'm sure the other Net Controllers would say the same.

I would like to thank John, WD9IWC and Marianne, KC9JLK for making this all possible. You both worked hard to get as many checkins as you can.

This always helps BARS by letting others know our group is out there, and very active. I hope to see you all next year on the BARS Thursday Night NET!

73s

Here is the December 2007 Net Report:

Total check-ins: 81
Total First time: 8

Total number of Hams checking in for 2007: 157
We had 23 more hams then 2006

Top Five check-ins for 2007:

Bryan, KC9GRH.....47
Joe, KC9ERT.....46
Bob, N9RAT.....44
Lavert, KA9CCH.....35
Bob, KA9BHD.....30

Host with the Most:
Marianne, KC9JLK.....307 Check-ins

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John, WD9IWC.....291 Check-ins
Archie, N9ZMM.....244 Check-ins

Numbers do not count the Net Controller
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Skywarn Severe Storm and Tornado Spotter Training

The National Weather Service will offer Skywarn severe storm and tornado spotter training classes throughout north central and northeast Illinois, and northwest Indiana, from February through April. The classes will be free and open to the public. Most will be held on weekday evenings, but some daytime and Saturday classes will be available. The classes take about 2 hours. A complete schedule will be posted in this spot, weather.gov/chicago, Top News of the Day, beginning around January 25.

Severe weather season generally begins by mid April, so we try to have all training completed by then. There are very few training opportunities beyond mid April. To make the most efficient use of limited staffing and resources, we coordinate the training schedule through your county emergency management agency. If you are associated with a local municipal police, fire, emergency services, or public works department and would like to host a spotter training class, please contact your county EMA. Your agency's facility must provide sufficient space to open the class up to the public and nearby communities. Schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and security or emergency response team personnel from local businesses are encouraged to send personnel to training classes. The NWS Chicago office does not offer online spotter training at this time.

NOAA: Sunspot is Harbinger of New Solar Cycle, Increasing Risk for Electrical Systems

January 4, 2008

A new 11-year cycle of heightened solar activity, bringing with it increased risks for power grids, critical military, civilian and airline communications, GPS signals and even cell phones and ATM transactions, showed signs it was on its way late yesterday when the cycle's first sunspot appeared in the sun's Northern Hemisphere, NOAA scientists said.

"This sunspot is like the first robin of spring," said solar physicist Douglas Biesecker of NOAA's [Space Weather Prediction Center](http://www.noaa.gov). "In this case, it's an early omen of solar storms that will gradually increase over the next few years."

A sunspot is an area of highly organized magnetic activity on the surface of the sun. The new 11-year cycle, called [Solar Cycle 24](http://www.noaa.gov), is expected to build gradually, with the number of sunspots and solar storms reaching a maximum by 2011 or 2012, though devastating storms can occur at any time.

During a solar storm, highly charged material ejected from the sun may head toward Earth, where it can bring down power grids, disrupt critical communications, and threaten astronauts with harmful radiation. Storms can also knock out commercial communications satellites and swamp Global Positioning System signals. Routine activities such as talking on a cell phone or

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getting money from an ATM machine could suddenly halt over a large part of the globe.

"Our growing dependence on highly sophisticated, space-based technologies means we are far more vulnerable to space weather today than in the past," said Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "NOAA's space weather monitoring and forecasts are critical for the nation's ability to function smoothly during solar disturbances."

Last April, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, NOAA issued a forecast that Solar Cycle 24 would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months. The panel was evenly split between those predicting a strong or weak cycle. Both camps agree that the sooner the new cycle takes over the waning previous cycle, the more likely that it will be a strong season with many sunspots and major storms, said Biesecker. Many more sunspots with Solar Cycle 24 traits must emerge before scientists consider the new cycle dominant, with the potential for more frequent storms.

The new sunspot, identified as #10,981, is the latest visible spot to appear since NOAA began numbering them on January 5, 1972. Its high-latitude location at 27 degrees North, and its negative polarity leading to the right in the Northern Hemisphere are clear-cut signs of a new solar cycle, according to NOAA experts. The first active regions and sunspots of a new solar cycle can emerge at high latitudes while those from the previous cycle continue to form closer to the equator.

SWPC is the nation's first alert for solar activity and its effects on Earth. The center's space weather forecasters issue outlooks for the next 11-year solar "season" and warn of individual storms occurring on the sun that could impact Earth. SWPC is one of NOAA's nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction and is also the warning agency of the International Space Environment Service (ISES), a consortium of 11 member nations.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, 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.

AES SUPERFEST 2008 – Just 90 days away! CALL FOR CLUBS PARTICIPATION

For clubs that have attended before, this is the Official 2008 Notice of Dates and Times.

If its the first time – here's the deal.

DATES:

Friday, March 28th (2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) & Saturday March 29th (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

LOCATION:

AES MILWAUKEE

WE PROVIDE:

Covered 8 ft. tables with electrical hook-up in a large inside area where you can interact with clubs, promote and recruit new members.

There is no admission, space or set-up charge; your organization is invited to attend without obligation.

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We are again expecting a large participation from major ham manufacturers. There will be VE testing, interesting forums, a fox hunt, prizes, the Gordon West show and a Very Special Guest to be announced.

SPACE REGISTRATION/INFORMATION:

Contact Ray Grenier, AES Milwaukee – e-mail: rayk9khw@aol.com; direct office line: (414) 375-1162; cell (anytime) 414-881-3528

SET-UP:

Friday 3/28 Open at 9:00 a.m., show opens at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday 3/29: Open at 8:00 a.m., show opens at 8:30 p.m.

Contact me ASAP, thanks,

Ray Grenier, K9KHW

AES Milwaukee

An ARRL SANCTIONED Hamfest

National Radio Quiet Zone

PBS' "Wired Science" had an interesting story about the National Radio Quiet Zone in the episode that aired last night. For those who missed the program, the story can be viewed online at <http://www.pbs.org/kcet/wiredscience/video/308-the-quiet-zone.html>.

In the story, they follow a guy around whose job it is to listen for and locate offending RF emitters. He's got some cool monitoring "toys" at his disposal, including EMITT (Electromagnetic Interference Tracking Truck). He's been on the job there for the past 25 years.....I want this guy's job when he retires!!!

The Quiet Zone was created by the FCC and IRAC back in 1958 in order to provide a "buffer zone" for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, WV and the Naval Radio Observatory in Sugar Grove, WV.

According to James Bamford (author of "The Puzzle Palace", etc.), the Sugar Grove facility's signal intercept capabilities support the mission of a particularly "hush hush" three-letter federal agency.

That there are also other areas of the country that the FCC has designated radio quiet zones - they are detailed in rule 1.924, which can be found at <http://www.hallikainen.com/FccRules/2006/1/924/>

New EmComm Software for Windows Now Available for Beta Testing

New EmComm Software for Windows Now Available for Beta Testing (Jan 3, 2008) -- The NarrowBand Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS) development team announced earlier this week that a Windows NBEMS software suite for beta testing is now available. NBEMS for Windows is a suite of software programs designed for point-to-point, error-free emergency messaging up to or over 100 miles distant. According to developers Skip Teller, KH6TY and Dave Freese, W1HKJ, the NBEMS system is designed primarily for use on VHF and up, or on HF with Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) antennas. The system uses the computer soundcard as the modem. Other than a simple interface connection between the computer and transceiver, no additional hardware is needed. Composing and sending emergency messages on NBEMS is no more difficult than sending e-mail via the Internet. All forwarding is done by stations manned by live operators on both ends who can confirm that a frequency is clear locally, or negotiate a frequency change to avoid causing

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interference. The NBEMS software can also be used for daily casual communications on PSK31, PSK63, RTTY or MFSK16 and is capable of sending flawless, high resolution, passport photo-sized color images in less than 10 minutes over any path that can sustain PSK250 without excessive repeats.

Radio amateurs are invited to participate in the beta test of the NBEMS.

The NBEMS suite can be downloaded for beta testing from the NBEMS Web site <http://w1hkj.com/NBEMS/>

Send comments and bug reports via e-mail, kh6ty@comcast.net

Announcing New Chicago Area Amateur Radio Yahoo Group

Chicago Amateur Radio Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChicagoAmateurRadio/join/>

The Chicago Amateur Radio Yahoo Group is dedicated to promoting closer communication and sharing of amateur radio knowledge & technique among fellow amateur radio enthusiasts.

The goals of the Chicago Amateur Radio Group are:

To provide an efficient means of disseminating amateur radio news, announcements, and event information;

To promote the activities, newsletters, events, and meetings of ALL participating radio clubs;

To encourage better communication and coordination among local radio clubs;

To foster positive discussions of news and topics relating to amateur radio, including but not limited to, DXing, contesting, digital modes & technology, homebrewing, antennas, portable operation, satellite communication, fox hunting, and other Amateur Radio topics;

To share information about amateur radio related electronic issues, problems, troubleshooting tips, work-arounds, and fixes among its members, and;

To provide a forum fostering improved operating techniques.

Membership is free and open to all licensed Amateurs. Postings by other Amateur Radio Clubs announcing meetings, activities or other events are encouraged.

73 de Dennis, N9DMK
krawczak@rcn.com

Dear friends of MARC.

As of Friday, Dec 7, 2007 at 4 PM, the Joliet Maverick Amateur Radio Club, also known as the WD9AZK/R repeater is back on the air. A most generous donation from the Morris Repeater Club made this possible and we extend to them a huge THANK YOU!

Please feel free to email this to whomever would be interested.

Thank you for your support and patience!

Chettina

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Grow Your Club With New Hams
By Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

One of the most frequently asked questions that we hear from ARRL affiliated clubs is "How can we increase membership in our club?"

On the surface the solution is a simple one - make more hams. A foundation of active Amateur Radio operators is required in order to maintain a healthy Amateur Radio club. If you lack a sufficient pool of licensed hams in your area then create some. Clubs that conduct licensing classes where they make recruitment part of the lesson continually increase membership. It does not matter if the course is an eight week program or a weekend crash course, a good instructor will pepper the syllabus with the advantages of membership in the local club and the Radio Amateur's national association - ARRL.

Providing a license course for those people in the community who are interested in learning about Amateur Radio demonstrates the club's commitment to helping people. Reinforcing Amateur Radio's tradition of helping each other let's the new hams know that they are not just getting a license to operate a radio but that they are also earning a ticket to become part of a worldwide society whose existence is built on mutual contact. Whether on the air or in the community Amateur Radio has always been a two-way function.

From the moment the license class begins new hams need to know that your club is there to help them as they begin their Amateur Radio journey. This relationship begins not in the classroom but at the time of registration or when that first contact is made whether in person or on the telephone or through the internet.

As the class progresses the new ham is made aware of the reciprocal bond between hams and while the novice may not believe that he or she has something to offer at the moment, their attendance and a desire to belong is sufficient contribution. As long as the club maintains a friendly environment that encourages participation and supports activities the novice will soon become the Elmer to the next group of new hams and will eventually take on leadership positions in the club. However, a club is destined to fade away if they choose to adopt the attitude "build it and they will come."

Be sure to invite the new licensees to your next club meeting. Using written invitations is a nice touch and sends a message that you really want them to attend. The focus of this meeting should be on your new hams and getting them into the mainstream. Several clubs have organized the meeting following a license class using the "Ham Radio 101" format where the entire evening's programming is to show the novices the basics of operating. Have refreshments on hand and be ready to talk about the fun activities such as Field Day or a community activity that your club is involved in. This is not the meeting where you want to discuss politics or topics that will embattle the membership. Keep it light and focused on the needs of the newcomers.

New hams are thirsty for information no matter how basic. When and where are the club meetings held? How do I get on the air? What does this or that term mean? Be prepared to answer the simplest questions and provide details when you do. The Mt. Baker club in Bellingham Washington has developed a great handout for new hams that helps answer some of these questions. With Mt. Baker's permission ARRL has made this booklet available to download and customize for your use. The modified version provides a place for your club to insert club and local information.

< <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2005/03/06/1/MBARC-Info-Pack.pdf>

> Use this brochure or develop one of your informative own but in any case be sure to give your new hams something to take home with them.

A closing thought when working with new hams, one person's favorite activity is not all that ham radio has to offer. Meeting programs and mentor sessions should stimulate new hams to explore the many options offered to the licensed radio amateur. Organizing and teaching an Amateur Radio license class where the students are encouraged to be a part of the fabric of ham radio and invited to participate in club activities is guaranteed to increase your club's membership with active hams.

ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications On-Line Courses (Levels

Posted by: "Mark Thompson" wb9qzb@yahoo.com wb9qzb
Date: Wed Jan 2, 2008 4:48 pm ((PST))

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration (Jan 2, 2008) -- Registration remains open through Sunday, January 6, 2008 for these online courses beginning on Friday, January 18, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes.

Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback.

Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator.

Level 1 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications EC-001

Senior Hams are encouraged to participate!

Description: Introduction to Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. A basic course to raise awareness and provide additional knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer. This course has 23 lesson units, is expected to take approximately 25 hours to complete over an 8-week period. See course Syllabus.

<http://www.arrl.org/cce/syllabus.html#econe>

Required Student Activities. <http://www.arrl.org/cce/student-activities.html#ec1>

Prerequisites: Amateur Radio license

Availability: Classes for this course begin once per month. Click on the Register link (below) to see the schedule for the next available class.

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Additional Info: Each lesson consists of text, quiz questions, and Student Activities, which are required for successful completion. Every student is assigned a mentor/instructor to review their student activities and guide them through the course. This course is a prerequisite to Level II, EC-002 and Level III, EC-003, Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses. Basic computer, Internet, and email navigational skills are required.

Suggested Reference Material: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course, Level I. ARRL Order No. 8462. Click here to order. <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=&words=Amateur+Radio+Emergency+Communications+Course+--+Level+I&SearchWords.x=0&SearchWords.y=0>

Fees: Member: \$45 Non-member: \$75

Register.

https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce/reg.html?co_num=EC-001

Level 2 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications EC-002

Description: Intermediate Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. A more in-depth study into amateur radio emergency communications to enhance the skills and knowledge received from previous experience. Level I ARECC is required prior to taking Level II. This course has 20 lesson units, is expected to take approximately 25 hours to complete over an 8-week period. See course Syllabus.

<http://www.arrl.org/cce/syllabus.html#ectwo>

Required Student Activities. <http://www.arrl.org/cce/student-activities.html#ec2>

Prerequisites: EC-001, Level I ARECC.

Availability: Classes for this course begin once per month. Click on the Register link (below) to see the schedule for the next available class.

Additional Info: This course is a prerequisite to Level III, EC-003, Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course. Basic computer, Internet, and email navigational skills are required.

Suggested Reference Material: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course, Level II \$19.95. ARRL Order No. 9698. Click here to order. <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9698>

Fees: Member: \$45 Non-member: \$75

Register.

https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce/reg.html?co_num=EC-002

Level 3 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications EC-003, Revision 2

Description: Advanced Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. This is the third and final stage of the 3-level ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses. This is a course for those in leadership or aspiring to leadership positions. Revision 2 is a significant rewrite that brings the course current with the post-9/11/01 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) paradigm. This course has 23 learning units, is expected to take approximately 25 hours to complete over a 12-week period. See course Syllabus.

<http://www.arrl.org/cce/syllabus.html#ecthree>

Required Student Activities. <http://www.arrl.org/cce/student-activities.html#ec3>

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Prerequisites: Level I (EC-001), and Level II (EC-002) ARECC.

Availability: Classes for this course begin once per month. Click on the Register link (below) to see the schedule for the next available class.

Additional Info: Basic computer, Internet, and email navigational skills are required.

Suggested Reference Material: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course, Level III, New Manual available June, 2006.

Fees: Member: \$45 Non-member: \$75

Register.

https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce/reg.html?co_num=EC-003R2

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.

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