
CQ BARS

Volume XXVI Issue 07

July 2008

President's Corner

Hello All.

Well another field day has come and gone. I want to congratulate everyone who had come out and operated Field Day 2008. If this is supposed to be a test of how we work under emergency conditions and for all of us out we did just that! As some of you know, Bolingbrook Mayor Roger Claar took some time out of his busy schedule to visit our field day site, as did the Police Chief. Chef Roller did a fantastic job cooking this year and for those that missed coming oh well. We did run 5A this and still getting the point added up and should have them for the meeting. Now we have to focus on the Hamfest. We're going to need everyone to participate to make this work. We need parkers, security and gate people. Also we need people to help set up on Saturday Aug. 2nd from 2pm till 6pm to help unload the vendors, and to set up the cafeteria. Breakfast will be at Denny's at 4am on the 3rd and the club will pay for breakfast for those that make it. Everyone else please be at the High School at 5am and sign in and get assignments. Archie, N9ZMM is looking for more net controls for the Thursday night nets. If interesting in helping Archie out please contact him at the next meeting.

See you all at the meeting,
Tom, N9LJY
BARS President

Secretary's Column

Hamfest is the next dish on the BARS menu. We're going to need help with preliminary setup on Sat afternoon at the high school, and the club is buying breakfast on EARLY Sunday morning so we can finish the setup before the doors open. Can you say 'Free Food'? A successful Hamfest, like Field Day, requires a great deal of time and coordinated effort. Remember that Hamfest is our only fund raising event for the club. We don't want to be reduced to having a bake sale, do we? We need to see as much participation as possible by club members so we can have a successful event. If everyone does just a little we can get a lot done. Come to the meeting for more details. Invite a fellow ham to come to the hamfest. For those of you who missed Field Day I only have one work for you - 'TOUGH'. The weather was almost perfect - no rain. The



food was great - Thanks, Jim!!

It's also membership time. I'm enclosing an application with this newsletter. Please!! Even Live members need to complete and return an application, just to let us know that you're still alive. E-Mail addresses need to be valid to insure that you still receive the newsletter and other special mailings. Also remember that you need to be an official member to vote in the officers elections coming up sooner than you think.

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:

K9JTB	W9WRS	KA9J
KB9JLB	WB9PDD	KC9JQW
KC9JXO	N9LJY	NB9R
KC9GSL	W9KHX	NE9G
KC9LCT	KA9SFW	N9OZD
KA9ZJJ	KC9NPT	NC9NMZ
K9SW	KA9CCH	N9VJV

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by W9KHX (Dale), seconded by KC9JXO (Chris) and carried

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: N9LJY (Tom) Reported parts are on order for the machine. The loaner machine is still in place.

220/440 WA9IL (John) reported the 440 loaner is still available while wanting upon a replacement machine. The 220 machine is awaiting a processor board. We need an 'A' licensed electrical engineer to install the electric at the hospital.

Net Control: no Report.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported that table sales are slow. Setup will start at 2 PM Sat (8/2). Breakfast will be on 8/3 at Denny's. 80 tables have been ordered 145.535 will be used as simplex talkaround. W9KHX (Dale) reported that there were only 2 commercial vendors at the DuPage hamfest.

Education: KC9JXD (Chris) has registered with the ARRL to get a 25% discount on instructional materials. He has notified Boy Scouts of availability The cost will cost \$30 (includes book and testing fee). The classes are planned for Sept at 2 hrs each for 8 weeks. He needs helpers.

VE: W9KHX (Dale) reported that he will need VE helpers at the Hamfest.

Field Day: N9LJY (Tom) reported that Setup will be June 27 after lunch at Meyer Park. 40 and 80 Meters are still open. WA9IL can supply ice. Media has been notified.

Public Relations: KA9ZJJ (Marti) reported that press releases for meetings and Hamfest have been sent to television and print media

Skywarn: N9LJY (Tom) advised everyone to keep ready, give the Net Control what is asked for and no additional, and (above all) BE SAFE.

OLD BUSINESS:

KB9JLB (Barb) has sent hamfest information via E-Mail to all of last years attendees.

The request for changing the time of the meetings was voted on. The vote was 19 to change it to 7:30 and 23 to leave it at 7:00. The meeting time will remain at 7 PM.

N9ABF (Jim) reported that he web page is getting a LOT of accesses lately. It shows the interest in the club.

A motion to close old business was made by K9JTB (Bill), seconded by KA9ZJJ (Marti) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

A motion to close new business was made by KA9ZJJ (Marti), seconded by KA9CCH (Levert) and carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

Thursday Night net Statistics courtesy of N9ZMM (Archie)

Here is the June 2008 Net Report:

June has shown to be our worse month for check-ins since I've started taking records. We had ended up with 42 check-ins. One of the possible reasons was a thunderstorm warning on June 12th that cancelled the regular net. The other reason could be the nice weather, and lack of HTs to check-in from outdoors.

We had only one new ham check-in to the net as well, Don, N9TCB from Godley, Illinois, which brought us up to a total of 89 hams that have checked in to our net since the start of the year.

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We are down from this number last year. Of course I hope this will change by the end of the year.

73s

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

Courtesy of our own Frank (KA9J)

Trouble being heard on 30 & 40 meters?

With the right equipment, some don't have that problem!! Recently Air Force and Navy scientists bounced a 7.4 Mhz signal off of the moon and were able to detect the echo. They also were successful at 9.4 Mhz. Of course, they were using an extremely high power transmitter (3.6 Million watts) and a large antenna array. If you have the April 2008 edition of Popular Mechanics, there is a picture of one of the antenna arrays on page 14. Below are two articles I found on the internet pertaining to this. The first talks about the experiment itself, and the second one was asking amateurs to listen on 7.4 Mhz. one weekend last January.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/01/080108113605.htm>
http://www.moondaily.com/reports/Amateur_Radio_Operators_Tune_Into_Lunar_Radar_Bounce_999.html

AN ERA COMES TO A CLOSE AS RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH, K4ZDH, RETIRES

On Thursday, July 3, Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH -- the man who has come to embody Amateur Radio Enforcement -- said goodbye to the FCC as he retired and began his life as a private citizen. In May, Hollingsworth announced he would definitely retire; he had contemplated retiring in January 2008, but cited "several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community." While his successor has not yet been named, he was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth said that he has "loved" working for the FCC and has "always had great jobs, but this one involving the Amateur Radio Service has been the most fun and I have enjoyed every day of it. I've worked with the best group of licensees on earth, enjoyed your support and tremendous FCC support and looked forward every day to coming to work.

The Amateur Radio Enforcement program will continue without missing a beat, and after retirement I look forward to being involved with Amateur Radio every way I can. I thank all of you for being so dedicated and conscientious, and for the encouragement you give us every day."

Saying it has been a "privilege to work with and for the Amateur Radio licensees and the land mobile frequency coordinators," Hollingsworth said that he is "extremely fortunate to work for two wonderful groups of people: Those at headquarters in the Enforcement Bureau, and for the Amateur Radio operators."

Before joining the FCC, Hollingsworth, a South Carolina native, graduated from the University of South Carolina and Wake Forest University School of Law. While in high school, he worked as a disc jockey for WRHI, an AM station in Rock Hill, South Carolina. "It's a funny thing," Hollingsworth said. "They once held a beauty pageant in Rock Hill and nobody won!" In the mid-1970s, he was

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a "Nader's Raider" and worked on brown lung disease in the North and South Carolina textile mills.

"Basically I'm just an ordinary guy caught in the cross-hairs of radio history," Hollingsworth said. "But I am proud of the fact that the digital clock on my VCR has been blinking for 4 years."

Hollingsworth told the ARRL he was "so very impressed" with the young people who are involved with Amateur Radio: "To the very young Amateur Radio operators I have met who have dreams of being scientists and astronauts and communications engineers, we will be pulling for you; I have a strong feeling we won't be disappointed."

Calling the Amateur Radio Service a part of the American heritage, Hollingsworth explained that he is "going to stay as actively involved in it as I possibly can. Thank you all for working tirelessly to provide the only fail safe communications system on Earth and for helping this country keep its lead in science and technology. What an incredible gift it has been to work with you every day, and how fortunate we are to love the magic of radio! Every gift of lasting value comes with responsibility. We must never forget what we owe for our spectrum privileges. I will continue working with you in every way I can to ensure that Amateur Radio lasts a thousand years."

Weather Facts

By our own George Geotsalitis NB9R

How many raindrops fall in a year?

If the annual rainfall for a given location is 30 inches, then each square yard receives (about) one billion raindrops.

What's the best tornado detector?

As good as the National Weather Service NEXRAD is, it does not detect all tornadic circulation. Some (small) tornadoes form quickly and from conditions that the radar can't identify. So what is the best tornado detector...the *human eye!* Spotters' rock!

www.earthquakecountry.info/dropcoverholdon/

From KA9QPN (Tom) our Section manager

**As I mentioned earlier, our violent spring has transitioned into a still violent summer. It has been a long time since I can remember weather watches being extended or reissued. We had two such incidents over the last few weeks, with one watch box going nearly twelve hours.

This makes for some really long SKYWARN shifts if your group activates on issuance. Most HT manufacturers make model-specific battery boxes for alkaline batteries. It makes good sense for you to get the one for your particular radio and keep it in your go-bag. You may not get near AC to charge your HT, but there's always someplace to grab a pack of AA cells. Remember that some of these battery boxes may cause a lower power output.

Speaking of emergency power type things, I've seen several items of interest to folks assembling emergency power systems or collecting battery powered doodads. Harbor Freight has several solar panel arrays for cheap money. Most of their offerings are made for trickle charging auto batteries, but 'hamgenuity' should allow for the proverbial '1001 uses'. HF also carries neat stuff like cable tie assortments (including stainless steel cable ties!), bulk steel wool (for plugging those cable entries against rodents) and obscure tools for weird projects. Fry's carries larger and pricier solar panels for bigger projects. Finally, WalMart had a major appliance manufacturer's battery to 110V and USB power

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converters on closeout. These are the ones with a NiMH battery on board and come in several wattages. I have no financial interest in any of these outfits. I just like to pass around info on items that will further our collective emergency preparedness.

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D-STAR continues to gain interest in the Section. Six systems are either on-air or in the advanced planning stages, with more systems in the initial planning phases. Yes, it's more expensive. So was CW and SSB and FM vs. spark and AM. The possible benefits and uses, especially for EmComm, are limitless. Mark Thompson WB9QZB and Kermit Carlson W9XA have been tireless boosters of D-STAR, carrying the message to any club or group who is willing to listen. Additionally, the 27th annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communication Conference will be held in the Chicago area on 26-28 September. Not only will D-STAR be a hot topic, but other items such as software defined radios, digital voice in all of its iterations, APRS, and other bleeding edge modes will be showcased. Our old favorites such as AX-25 will also be on display in their latest forms.

Safety Alert

RadioShack Recalls Power Supplies Due to Electrocution and Fire Hazards.

Name of Product: 13.8V DC Power Supplies
Units: About 160,000

Importer: RadioShack Corp., of Fort Worth, Texas
Hazard: The recalled power supplies are wired incorrectly, posing electrocution and fire hazards.

Description: The recall involves RadioShack 13.8V DC Power Supplies, catalog numbers 22-507 and 22-508 with date codes from 08A04 through 01A08.

Date code format is MMYY where MM is the month and YY is the year. The catalog number and date code are located on the back of the power supply.

Power Supplies with a green dot on the product and the product's packaging have already been repaired and are not included in the recall.

Sold at: RadioShack stores nationwide from October 2004 through January 2008 for between \$50 and \$85.
Remedy: Consumers should unplug the recalled power supply immediately and take it to any RadioShack store for a free repair. Registered owners of the recalled power supplies will be mailed a notice.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact RadioShack at 800-843-7422 anytime, or visit the firm's website at:

<http://www.radioshack.com/recall>

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/prhtm108/08319.html>

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.