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# CQ BARS

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## President's Corner

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year! At our December Meeting we had a very good turnout and we all ate well due to the many dishes everyone brought. With the club providing the pizzas, we had plenty to eat! We had a short meeting and presented the yearly awards, for Service, Achievement and Ham Of the Year. The winners are: club trustee John Dinnella WA9IL for Service, club vice-president AJ Bonny KC9JQW for Achievement, and club president Tom Ballard N9LJY as Ham of the Year. Also I gave out 4 Certificates of Appreciation Awards for their involvement in providing us space in the penthouse of the new hospital for the club's two repeaters: Mayor Roger Claar, Acting Fire Chief Bob Mierop, Hospital Administrative Director Herman McKenzie, Barry Wilk KH6KI, and Andy Baumann KC9BKP of United Radio. Again with out their support this wouldn't have happened! If you see any of these individuals, please thank them for their support.

Next meeting is 1/19/09 7: PM and the Hamfest will be at the top of the agenda. Hope everyone can make it.

Tom, N9LJY  
BARS President

## Secretary's Column

I should have expected a better than average turnout for the December meeting. After all, there was FOOD!! Why can't we ge this kind of attendance for a REGULAR meeting? As Tom mentioned, the January meeting is going to be important because Hamfest discussion will be at the top of the agenda. There re both pros and cons to having a Hamfest, and decisions need to be made soon.

Note that before the December meeting a special presentation was made to Mayor Claar in appreciation for the support he and the Village have been for BARS.

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 KC9JLK (Marianne). Also present at the meeting were:

|        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|
| N9LJY  | WA9IL  | N9ABF  |
| NW9V   | WD9AYR | KB4NEN |
| KB9LMK | HA9HZH | W9WRS  |
| NE1NT  | KC9DDL | WB9PDD |
| KA9SFW | KB9JLB | KA9J   |
| K9SW   | KA9CCH | N9VJV  |

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by KA9HZH (Ed) and carried

Treasurer's report was not available

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**2 meter:** No Report

**220/440** WA9IL (John) reported the 220 machine is up and running with no PL. The duplexers were cleaned up. The 440 machine is still having some occasional problems..

**Net Control:** No Report.

**Hamfest:** N9LJY (Tom) reported that the decision about whether to have one in 2009 will be discussed in detil at the January meeting..

**Education:** No Report.

**VE:** No report.

**Field Day:** N9LJY (Tom) reported that the plan is to hold it in the same location as last year

**Public Relations:** No Report.

**Skywarn:** NW9V (Phil) reported that there were about 600 contacts for 42 states.

## OLD BUSINESS:



## 2

The annual awards were presented:  
Service – WA9IL (John)  
Achievement – KC9JQW (AJ)  
Ham of Year – N9LJY (Tom)

A motion to close old business was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by KA9SFW (Jim) and carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None

A motion to close new business was made by NW9V (Phil), seconded by KA9ZJJ (Marti) and carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by KA9ZJJ (Marti) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don, N9VJV  
Secretary

### **November 2008 Thursday Night Net Report**

December 2008 Thursday Night Net Report

I hope that everyone had a great Christmas and a safe New Year. Did Santa leave you something nice for your shack?

December ended on the same note at most of the year did, low. I'm sure many didn't have as much time on the air because of the holidays coming up. Many may be snowbirds and fly to warmer areas other than the Chicago land area.

What ever the case may be the turn out for 2008 was much lower than 2007. I can only guess some hams upgraded to General and left the 2 meter rig in the closet. I hope that is not the case but the facts show there is a decline in 2 meter use on W9BBK.

We ended with 119 hams checking in throughout the year, with a total of 761 check ins. Our First time check ins were low too with only 45 check ins. That is a decrease from 2007 which was 77.

The good news is we have two Hams that checked in the Most in 2008. Bryan, KC9GRH (a three time winner) and Bob, N9RAT. Congratulations to both of them, I will have there award at the next meeting.

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

### **From Will Sperling K9WSS via CARMA**

With a caveat of being slightly off-topic (OT), I wanted to alert fellow CARMA members to be careful operating your scanners, ham & CB rigs, and other automotive electronics in severe cold weather. I know for a fact that my (very expensive) Yaesu FT-857D all-band ham transceiver's optimum low temperature is 14 degrees F. It is recommended NOT to operate the radio below this temperature. I never knew that the radio could be seriously damaged if I were to transmit or merely receive in this cold snap.

Take a look at the owner's manuals on your radios that you are planning on using mobile, hand-held or otherwise in this extreme cold we're experiencing (in the Chicago and Midwest region of the United States).

**From our N9AMM (Archie) For information only – not an endorsement:**

## CQ BARS

I've started a web site to sell electronic kits.  
<http://www.indianakits.com/>  
It's now fully operational so please have a look.

Thanks,

Jim Osburn, WD9EYB

### **ARRL Central Division News**

After some technical delays, the December 2008 Central Division Newsletter is now posted at:

<http://www.central.arrl.org/>

For those of you who may not see this issue in the next several days, I wish you and your families the best of the holiday season and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!

ARRL Central Division  
Director: George Isely, W9GIG  
w9gig@arrl.org

### **Will your cell phone crash in emergencies?**

Exclusive: Phil Elmore cautions wireless users to prepare for worst-case scenario

By Phil Elmore

Just how dependent are you on your wireless phone?

Just two days ago, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that a service outage affecting AT&T customers cut off wireless users across the Midwest all day Sunday. This outage in turn highlights a growing trend: According to the Tribune article, one out of every six U.S. households does *not* have a landline. That means just under 18 percent of U.S. households, up from 7 percent only three years ago, depend entirely on wireless technology for their communication needs.

When I was growing up, it was a fact of life that the family telephone would continue operating in a power outage. As time went on and we incorporated a cordless phone or two, we learned that those phones would not work in the event of a brownout. We turned instead to the older, more reliable landlines. Later, when my father's home business required the installation of a commercial intercom system integrated into phones throughout the house, *none* of the phones operated in a power outage – and we would have to drag out the single, scuffed Princess model we kept in the basement, plugging it in so we could make and receive calls during ice storms and other losses of power.

During the [Northeast blackout of 2003](#), nearly 50 million people in the United States and Canada were affected by a power-grid problem, and the causes were debated fiercely in the days that followed. When the power went out that August afternoon, I was in the car running an errand. I was listening to AM talk radio, and it wasn't long before news reports revealed that the outage was far more than a local problem. A bit concerned, I dialed my wife on my wireless phone – only to discover I could not connect. The wireless network was down.

This was only two years after Sept. 11, 2001, and I was not the first person to wonder – with growing agitation as the power outage continued – if this wasn't some far-reaching act of terrorism affecting several portions of American infrastructure. As it turned out, the truth, as it so often is, was far less fraught with drama. When the power went out, everyone and his uncle started

making calls, apparently. The subsequent load on the wireless network was what crashed it. Power was eventually restored, we spent at least part of a day blaming Canada for the failure of the grid, and the debate continued for some time after that. I remember thinking, even then, that my wireless phone was not as dependable as I had come to think of it.

As a society, we are becoming increasingly involved with our phones. Camera phones and phones that record digital video have turned every second person on the street into an amateur reporter. Very few events transpire that are not recorded for the news, or for YouTube, by some wireless phone-toting spectator. Our phones browse the Internet, keep us connected to our work e-mails while on the go and have turned the noun "text" into a verb meaning: "to send a written message to someone on your wireless phone." The pervasiveness of wireless phone technology has helped make us all more interconnected, to each other and to the network of networks that is the Internet, speeding up society, making data transfer more rapid and becoming critical infrastructure for millions of Americans. What we have to ask ourselves, then, is how we will cope when we are suddenly and unexpectedly cut off from these devices on which we now depend.

Techworld reported yesterday that a denial-of-service attack, spread by text message to Nokia phones, could cause those phones to stop receiving subsequent messages. This raises the ugly specter of computer virus-like malware affecting phones – and causing phones to require anti-virus protection – in the same way such programming affects home and laptop computers today. Some PDAs already run Windows, after a fashion, and the plethora of viruses makes the Windows Mobile pocket-PC user wonder if his phone and data assistant is as safe as it should be.

A few years ago, one of the late Gene Roddenberry's television programs made mention of this trend, among a few others. (The program correctly predicted, for example, that the Internet would become a sort of alternative broadcast medium for user-generated content, including television shows.) Characters on the show were equipped with devices they called "Globals" – combination telephone, television, data transfer and recording devices that were, in some ways, like the all-purpose "tricorders" of Roddenberry's "Star Trek." Any child who today is old enough to notice the similarity between a modern flip phone and a Star Trek communicator will take for granted that the Enterprise crew is simply talking on wireless phones. A decade or two from now, our youngsters may well take for granted that a phone is not merely a phone, but an all-purpose, multimedia data receiver and transmitter. One could argue that this is already the case.

These innovations are useful, convenient and even fun. I'm very dependent on my BlackBerry, and I use it for everything from text messaging to playing Tetris and, yes, even to make the occasional phone call. When we take a piece of technology for granted, however, we *must* consider the unintended consequences of accepting that piece of infrastructure for what it has become. We must ask ourselves how we will cope if we are suddenly cut off from these devices, which are far more susceptible to denials of service than we might be tempted to think. Whether from power outages or malicious software, our phones are vulnerable to external threats. We must acknowledge this and plan for it if we are to have workable alternatives in the event of an emergency.

### **Announcing Digital Ham Group**

This group is dedicated to the discussion & development of amateur /ham radio use of communication techniques utilizing all digital voice & data modes.

This is the only group with dozens of Files & Links covering All the

digital voice & data modes.

Join the group to exchange ideas & information and learn about operating the digital modes.

Hams from all areas are welcome.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/illinoisdigitalham/>

### **From Section Manager: Thomas T. Ciciora, KA9QPN**

It's supposed to be the coldest week of the Era of Global Warming®, but plans are still underway for spotter training in the Section. Consult the NWS office site closest to you for a schedule. Or better, contact your local ARES@/RACES group or local emergency manager and get into the established structure. Spotting is not a solo endeavor and is best accomplished as part of a group. As we had a watch box issued in the last week of 2008, we should know that no time of the season is free from the possibility of severe weather, given the right conditions. Best to be vigilant and ready.

### **2009 Advanced Spotter Training:**

Mark your calendars and save the dates! The 2009 Advanced Severe Weather Training Programs at Wheaton College are scheduled for Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>. Brochures will be mailed the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Madrid Fault Report Released**

Amateur groups in the southern and central United States usually contend with severe weather, large scale accidents, missing person searches, winter weather, and the occasional hurricane, but there is another threat that we should plan and exercise for: A large scale earthquake along the New Madrid fault zone.

DHS/FEMA has just released a comprehensive new report on the threat and it contains a wealth of information for those who may be planning tabletop exercises or fodder for next year's SET. The complete report is a large PDF file (over 70 megs) but well worth the download time. A direct link to the full report is at:

<<https://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/bitstream/2142/8971/2/ImpactofEarthquakeontheCentralUSA.pdf>>

Keep in mind that quakes in the New Madrid Fault Zone have produced some of the largest ever recorded in US history. Earthquakes in 1811 and 1812 caused widespread damage, and loss of life even though the region was sparsely populated compared to today. This report details the "worst case scenario" for all states within the region.

In Alabama, we could expect 13 "critical" counties in the northern part of the state to be affected. While even these counties are on the extreme perimeter of the impact zone, we would still experience tens of thousands of homes experiencing moderate to complete damage. The total among mobile homes is even higher. Damage to critical infrastructure, including communications would be moderate, but would still dwarf any other event in our state with the exception of a land falling hurricane.

With impacts in surrounding states being far worse, we could expect the need for Amateur Radio communications support to dwarf even that of Katrina.

According to the study, a major quake of magnitude 7.0 or higher in the region within the next 50 years is better than 90%. We can't afford not to include this in our planning. -- Les Rayburn, N1LF, Alabama Section Emergency Coordinator; NCS-SHARES NCS-047

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.