

W0GQ

W0WSV



BANDSPREAD



Associated with *Linn County Emergency Management Agency* and the *ARRL*

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, September 10, 2009, 7:30 PM
Propagation and Antenna Modeling, Stu, K6TU
Kenwood Park United Methodist Church
175 34th St. NE

*POLICY STATEMENT: Renew your ads, or they get dropped at the end of the month.
Any Ham can submit ads. You don't have to be a member. TNX.*

IN THIS ISSUE:

Meeting minutes - Board minutes - ARES minutes -
Want & For Sale Ads - A Certain amount of opinion – news for Hams

CONTRIBUTORS WELCOME

Have an idea you want to share? A better way of doing things? Comments on Summerfest? Then let us at BANDSPREAD know. Contact any board member listed in the directory on page 2.

Send items via e-mail to any board member at cvarebrd@rf.org

Deadline for October 2009 Issue is September 24, 2009

BANDSPREAD

The Voice of the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club

Bandspread Staff

Publisher	Cedar Valley ARC	e-mail or Business (PHONE)	HOME
Editor & Word Processor	Mike Miller/Laura Runkle	kc0nxo@arrl.net	377-5929
Circulation Manager	Al Groff, KØVM	køvm@arrl.net	393-8134
Mailing	Dave Hallock, WØSS		377-3876

Club Officers

President	Steve Jones, WA6GFD	wa6gfd@aol.com	377-2219
Vice-President	Rick Olney, NØXZL	rolney@qwest.net	396-8979
Treasurer	Dennis Sutherland, KCØPON	dennis.sutherland@mchsi.com	
Secretary	Michael Zomlefer, WØMRZ	michael_zomlefer@hotmail.com	362-0092
Information Director	Bill Clark, AKØR	ak0r@arrl.net	
Membership/Promotion Director	Steve Sawyers, NAØIA	295-5983	377-2877
Program Director	Gregg Lind, KCØSKM	kc0skm@arrl.net	
Emergency Preparedness Dir.	Scott Haney, NØGUD	nogud@arrl.net	366-1465
Communications Activities Dir.	VACANT		

Club Appointments

Station Trustee	Al Groff, KØVM	køvm@arrl.net	393-8134
VE Manager	Darrel Peterson, WAØKHH	waøkhh@juno.com	393-8667
Training/Education Committee			
Hamfest Chairman	Rick Olney, NØXZL	rolney@qwest.net	396-8979
Dist 6 West Emergency Coordinator	Steve Jones	wa6gfd@aol.com	377-2219

ARRL Appointments

Linn County Emer.Coordinator	Scott Haney, NØGUD	nogud@arrl.net	366-1465
Ia Section Tech Coordinator	Tom Brehmer, NØLOH	nøloh@arrl.net	
ARRL Midwest Div. Vice Dir.	Cliff Ahrens, KØCA	køca@arrl.org	
ARRL Midwest Division Dir	Bruce Frahm, KØBJ	købj@arrl.org	
ARRL Iowa Section Manager	Tom Brehmer, NØLOH	nøloh@arrl.net	
ARRL Volunteer Consulting En	Steve Sawyers, NAØIA	295-5983	377-2877

Net Directory

3.896 MHz	3900 Club	8:45 a.m. Sundays
146.745 MHz (alt. 145.15Ø-192.8PL)	Linn County ARES Net	7:00 p.m. Sundays
146.85Ø MHz (-6ØØ KHz)	Johnson County Sunday Net	7:30 p.m. Sundays
145.39Ø MHz (-6ØØ KHz)	Jones County ARES Net	8:00 p.m. Sundays
146.43Ø MHz	Iowa County Amateur Net (ICAN)	6:30 p.m. Mondays
356Ø KHz	TLCN (CW Section)	6:30 & 10:00 p.m. Daily
397Ø KHz	Iowa 75 Meter Net (SSB)	12:30 & 6:00 p.m. Mon—Sat

WWW Addresses

CVARC Web Page: <http://cvarc.rf.org/>

ARES Web Page: <http://ares.rf.org>

Want ads and articles are accepted from all amateurs, members or not, at no charge! Submissions must be sent to

**CVARC
PO Box 2352
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
Or to kc0nxo@arrl.net**

Meeting place is indicated on the cover with program information.

For Club membership send, Name, Call, Address, Phone number, ARRL Status (Yearly, Life, or not a member), willing or not to be on call for Storm Watch and emergency situations and dues to CVARC PO Box

Yearly Dues, PAYABLE JAN 1: \$10 Regular or Family, \$5 under 18yrs of age,

After July 1: \$5 for all

AUGUST CVARC MEETING PREVIEW

We will be having a special type of presentation - we will be having Stu join via a netmeeting approach. Over the years much research has been made in applying computer modeling to predicting the behavior of antenna designs and radio propagation. Originally designed for expensive (slow and now obsolete!) mainframe computers, much of this modeling software has been redesigned with modern interfaces and ported to the PC. PCs now have enough power that modeling which required days or weeks of computer time can now be done in seconds.

This presentation shows how to combine antenna modeling with propagation prediction models to analyze particular signal paths or develop forecasts for use in day to day operations, DX expeditions or contesting. Using WSPR, the Weak Signal Propagation Reporting system developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT, the presentation compares real world propagation results against forecasted conditions.

Gregg Lind KC0SKM

RECEIVE NOTICE OF BANDSPREAD BY E-MAIL

Bandspread is now available in PDF format on the CVARC Website, at <http://cvarc.rf.org/Bandspread/>. Back issues are organized in annual subdirectories.

If you would like to get an e-mail notice of when the latest Bandspread is on the Website, please email Laura, KC0NXO at kc0nxo@arrl.net.

If you like the convenience and economy of the electronic version, and want to be removed from the mailing list for the paper version, please contact Al, K0VM, at k0vm@arrl.net.

AUGUST 2009 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The August 2009 Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Director's meeting was held 13 August 2009 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. President WA6GFD called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Others in attendance were: W0MRZ, N0GUD, KC0PON, NA0IA and WA0KHH.

The Board Minutes from the June 2009 meeting were accepted, subject to adjustment of an error in listing Steve Sawyer's call sign, by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Club Treasurer KC0PON reported that the club had a checking balance of \$3006.93. The Treasurer also talked about fine tuning the Summerfest mailing

lists to reflect Silent Key status. Steve Sawyers agreed to work with our mail processing/printing firm to see options regarding fees associated with the Club's mailing permit. In addition, it was decided to solicit help from K0AL in processing a request from a Dubuque widow who wrote CVARC seeking guidance on how to dispose of her late husband's ham equipment.

The Treasurer went on to summarize the preliminary figures from the recent Summerfest: Revenue was improved over 2008 as were paid attendance and number of 'tables' leased by vendors.

Steve Sawyers indicated that a General Class training course would probably be run sometime in the September-Thanksgiving timeframe, with details to follow. Finally, NA0IA announced that the Iowa QSO party would be held on October 17th of this year, with full details listed on the ARRL web page.

N0GUD thanked everyone who participated and supported in the recent storm nets/events, highlighting that net discipline was excellent throughout. Scott Haney also reminded the Board that three reimbursable ARRL emergency classes were still available this year for qualified applicants who successfully completed a course.

WA0KHH announced that there were 20 candidates at the satellite ham-testing session held at Hamfest, with a 'pass' rate of 70%. The next scheduled local exam session will be in Vinton on 24 September 2009 and CVARC will probably hold its own exam testing session sometime in the fall.

WA6GFD indicated that the Club would need to pay \$150.00 for the use of the borrowed tent on Field Day; a motion was made and carried unanimously to effect that payment. The Club President also indicated that the CVARC had sent a donation to a Memorial Fund set up in memory of Ron Breitwisch, KC0OX, now a silent key.

Upcoming public service events were listed by Steve Jones and these will be detailed in future Bandspread(s).

The board meeting was closed at 7:24 pm.

Submitted by W0MRZ, Secretary

AUGUST 2009 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The August 2009 general membership meeting was held Thursday, 13 August 2009 in the Kenwood United Methodist Church.

The formal meeting was opened at 7:35 pm by President Steve Jones, WA6GFD with all 57 attendees

and guests introducing themselves.

The minutes for the June 2009 meeting were accepted unanimously by those present.

Steve Jones led a moment of silence in remembrance of Ron Breitwisch, KC0OX, who recently became a Silent Key. Ron made significant contributions to amateur radio and the community at large, and was a tireless and enthusiastic supporter of emergency communications in our region. He will be missed by all those who knew and worked with him.

WA6GFD announced that the Summerfest was an unqualified success in terms of vendor response, total attendance, and revenue generated. Highlights for Summerfest will be detailed in a separate Bandspread article. Steve also thanked Rick Olney [who claims this is his 'final' year for leading the Summerfest effort!] for his organizational and leadership efforts in ensuring the success of CVARC's yearly hamfest.

N0GUD thanked everyone who participated and supported in the recent storm nets/events, highlighting that net discipline was excellent throughout. Scott Haney also reminded the club membership that three reimbursable ARRL emergency classes were still available this year for qualified applicants who successfully completed a course.

The club Vice President summarized the statistics for Summerfest with all numbers 'up' over prior years. ALL of the commercial vendors were excited about CVARC's Summerfest this year and promised to be back again for next year's event.

Membership/Promotion Director Steve Sawyers announced the door prizes for the evening [dual band, mag-mount antenna and tickets to a hamfest], and also advised members that badges with the CVARC logo could be made available to club members via the vendor who provided this service at our Summerfest.

Steve indicated that a General Class training course would probably be run sometime in the September-Thanksgiving timeframe, with details to follow. Finally, NA0IA announced that the Iowa QSO party would be held on October 17th of this year, with full details listed on the ARRL web page.

Club Treasurer KC0PON reported that the club had a balance of \$3006.93.

WA0KHH announced that there were 20 candidates at the satellite ham-testing session held at Hamfest, with a 'pass' rate of 70%. The next scheduled local exam session will be in Vinton on 24 September 2009 and CVARC will probably hold its

own exam testing session sometime in the fall.

Mike Miller, Bandspread Editor, wanted to be notified by any members who have not received their Bandspread over the past month or two.

Steve Jones summarized upcoming public events that CVARC would be supporting, including the Pigman Triathlon, MS Bike Ride, Alzheimer's Walk and the Muddy Monster Run. Details on these events would be posted on the CVARC web page.

New Business: Steve Sawyers led a discussion revolving about the door prize being offered at Hamfest and if the offering should be modified in any way.

It was also suggested that announcements be made on the Cedar Rapid repeater regarding events of general interest, including testing sessions, CVARC meeting announcements and special events. WA6GFD agreed to help ensure that the repeater would be programmed to make these announcements, when possible.

The formal meeting was concluded at 8:13 pm.

The evening's presentation was made by Warren Amfar W0WL, entitled Antenna Myths and Potpourri on Wire Antennas and Antenna Tuners.

Submitted by W0MRZ, Secretary

ARES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 2009

Minutes for 6 August 2009 ARES planning committee

Attending: KF0VF, WA6GFD, KD0HF, N0GUD, KC0PON, W0IM, KI0OB, WA0FBX, N0XZK

Introductions

- Ron Breitwisch, KC0OX SK
 - KC0OX was the DEC for our District for many years, and greatly involved in emergency response for many more. Much of our success stems from many hours of hard work and planning by Ron – we owe him a lot. I was honored to work with him. – N0GUD
- Review of past month's activities
 - 4 July Independence Day Net
 - Very light traffic, no major issues.
 - Had to retask that week because requests made to EMA changed.
 - Original plan was to staff EOC, but mobile command post was requested, so we staffed that instead.
 - 10 July Storm Event

- Approximately two staff hours
 - Minimal net, heavy rainfall, no hail
- 11 July NDMS Drill
 - Six staff hours
 - Four stations participated: N0GUD (NCS, Mercy), KI0OB (St Luke's), WA6GFD, KF0VF (both HF liaisons)
 - No HF contact made – problems in DSM
 - All traffic funneled through Chelsea 440 linked system.
 - Only Mercy could reliably RX/TX.
 - Traffic passed to St Luke's as required
 - Only a few test messages, not a full drill.
 - Spent several hours before drill making sure new radios at hospitals were programmed and ready.
- 24 July Storm Event
 - MASSIVE storm system moved in from north/northwest (unusual pattern).
 - Storm did not track as expected.
 - EMA staffed, radar staffed.
 - Winds 60+, hail about 0.5 in, high rainfall rates.
 - Overall net went well, but some areas for improvement:
 - A couple of key stations were not in town and had to drive in.
 - EMA station needed to be staffed, but no direct page was received due to broken equipment at EOC. Talked to EMA, there were no worries, but it would have been better to be there sooner.
 - N0GUD is making contact with NWS to work out the best way for them to check directly into our net, should that be necessary.
 - Some discussion followed of the repeater links possible between CR and DVN.
- MS Bike Ride (29-30 August)
 - This is strictly a CVARC event, but we plan to use it as our SET for 2009. Hence, discussion from ARES.
 - Multiple frequencies in use, and there is a staging event associated with this.
 - Information is being collected and will be passed out.
 - First riders out of Atkins at 0700h on Saturday. **EARLY EVENT!**
 - Meeting coming up later in the month to be attended by WA6GFD (and possibly N0GUD).
 - This year, we are better defining our

participation.

- In years past, a number of tasks were passed to us. Not normally an issue, but they prevented us from doing what we came there to do!
- Many volunteers needed...the more, the better.
- Plan to use the Chelsea 440 linked repeater, among others. Will also have some simplex frequencies set up. Will be NCS near Vining. In years past, we have used up to three repeaters (but one was the Benton machine, and we're not sure it's up right now).
- Review action item list
 - Reviewed, with progress noted.
- Other items
 - Presentation for ACOHB in September – volunteers needed.
 - St Luke's radio work
 - STL bought an HF radio at Summerfest.
 - Recently added LMR 400 to support UHF/VHF radios. (340 feet...ouch.)
 - Have cable for HF.
 - This is in anticipation of NDMS drills. Obviously, station staffing will need to be General or above.
 - We believe we have a location for the antenna. Probably 160/80/40 inverted V.
 - Noise floor is not unmanageable.
 - As we get the antenna built, we'll need a few people to help run line and get the wire in the air.
 - We thought that STL could hit the Chelsea system – but it's not working. We may try moving that antenna around and taking some measurements to find a better location that may help with this situation.
 - There is a tower there with a lot of other antennas, plus cellular antenna bays. (We normally avoid these.)
 - Aiming for Chelsea because we have never managed the Waterloo linked machine.

Submitted by N0GUD

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I want to thank everyone who helped to make the 2009 Summerfest a very successful event. Attendance was up from last year, our vendors were very happy with the turn of people and their sales, we had at least two new vendors, and there were no big problems or glitches. I really want to thank Rick Olney for all of the hard work he has put into making the Summerfest a success for these past five years.

By the time you read this the last big communications event will be over and we'll have two fun events left to do. The first is the Alzheimers' Walk in Noelridge Park on Saturday 26th of September and the second is the Muddy Monster (details still being worked) on the 25th of October. I would especially like to invite all of the new Hams to come out to the Alzheimers' Walk. All you need to participate in this event is a handie talkie. The event lasts a couple of hours and is totally contained within the Noelridge Park area. If you are interested participating, please let me know. Fall is fast approaching and it is time to take a quick look at antennas, guys, etc to identify any work that must be completed before the colder weather and snow arrives.

Look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

WA6GFD

K-12 CORNER

We have reported on several recent Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge classes. There is another scouting group in the area that has made ham radio part of their activities.

According to the Boy Scouts of America web site, "Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 ... through 20 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults." Venture Crew 2000, in Cedar Rapids, has a club call sign, W0VCK.

Last year during the flood members of Venture Crew 2000 were some of the hams at St. Luke's, the Viola Gibson school shelter, and the Cedar Rapids Police Department. This year they carted a trusty Yaesu FT-817 into the Montana wilderness, and had contacts with the East Coast. Dave Blankenship, K9MRB, Greg Gibson, KD0CQV, and Joe Lutgens, W0LJ, are three of the adult leaders who volunteer their time with these scouts.

As always, if you have tips, success stories or questions about working with K-12 students, we'd like to hear about them. If you have upgraded your license or received a radio award, such as Worked All States, we'd like to share that good news. Please contact us at kc0nxn@arrl.net

KC0NXN & KC0NXO

AN UPDATE ON COMMUNICATIONS EVENTS

- ◆September 26, Saturday: Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk at Noelridge Park.
- ◆October 25, Sunday: Muddy Monster Cross Country Run.

AREA EVENTS

Washington Area Amateur Radio Club, Inc, cordially invites all radio amateurs and their families to the 4th annual picnic table portable ops & foxhunt event. On Saturday, September 26, 2009. Setup begins at 8 am. Event cancelled in case of inclement weather. Announced on 147.045+ repeater.

Marr Park 2943 Highway 92, Ainsworth, IA. Watch for signs in park. The purpose of this event is for setting up portable antennaas, homebrew or otherwise, portable equipment on emergency power, testing operating, and comparing equipment for effectiveness.

12 pm Cookout/Potluck. Bring a dish or two to share and your table service. (Electricity on site.) Bring your favorite pop. Other non-alcoholic drinks provided. No alcohol, please. Fox hunt in afternoon. Door prizes. Questions? Contact Mark Lukins -AB0DX at either 319-653-6735 or ab0dx@arrl.net

QUESTIONS ABOUT NEWSLETTER?

Please let us know if there are any errors or omissions that we can correct. If there's something you'd like to see, please also let us know. Is there something that you think you can contribute?

KC0NXN & KC0NXO

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

YOUR AD HERE

The rates are right (free for any amateur), and the audience is perfect for your for sale or wanted advertisement. Send to:

CVARC
PO BOX 2352
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Or to kc0nxo@arrl.net

All advertisements must be renewed monthly!



AMATEUR RADIO GENERAL LICENSE CLASS

Do you have a Technician
License?
Are you interested in operating
on the HF bands?

NO MORSE CODE REQUIRED!!!

A **FREE** class Starts Sept 17th, 2009

Sponsored by:

Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club.

The Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club is offering amateur radio training to prepare students to pass the FCC General Class license exam.

This course only requires grade school level arithmetic. Morse Code is not required for this license. The class is free. The required text book is available at a reduced cost of \$20 to class members.

The ten weekly classes start on September 17th at 6:30-8:30 PM.
FCC Exam Session will be offered on Saturday November 21st.

Classes will be held at:
Kenwood Park United Methodist Church
175 34th St. N.E.
Cedar Rapids, IA

For Registration or Additional Information, please contact

Jerry Buchheit KI0WA

263-8510 – Office

265-0700 – Home

Email: jlbuchhe@rockwellcollins.com

or

Steve Sawyers NA0IA

295-5983 – Office

377-2877 – Home

Email: shsawyer@rockwellcollins.com

Pre-Registration

NAME

CALL & EMAIL

ADDRESS

PHONE

Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club.
PO. Box 2352
Cedar Rapids IA 52406-2352

Club Meetings
Second Thursday of each month.
Kenwood Park United Methodist Church
175 34th St. N.E. Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Meeting and special events
announcements on the
WØGQ repeater 146.745 + MHz

About CVARC:

The Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club is a regional group promoting amateur radio activities in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area. CVARC is a non-profit corporation registered in the state of Iowa. CVARC meets on the second Thursday of each month in the Kenwood Park Methodist Church at 7:30 PM, Central Time. The meeting consists of club business and a program. The programs tend to be Amateur oriented but we occasionally host a general interest topic. Watch the website at cvarc.rf.org or the Bandspread newsletter for the topic.

All are welcome at these meetings, neither membership nor amateur radio license is required.

CVARC affiliations:

- Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL)
- Linn County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
- Linn County Emergency Management Agency

CVARC Activities:

- Sponsor and present the premier Hamfest of eastern Iowa, in August
- Participation in the Annual ARRL Field Day Event
- Publish a monthly newsletter known as the Bandspread
- Participate in a number of Public Service Activities in the Cedar Rapids area
- Support and Participate in the Storm Watch Net operated by the Linn county ARES organization
- Hold social functions during the year, including the annual Holiday Party and Picnic
- Sponsor a complete ham station at Linn County Emergency Management HQ.
- Conduct classes for Technician and higher licenses each year
- Sponsor VE testing three times a year
- Maintain the 146.745 MHz repeater in Cedar Rapids

Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club

PO BOX 2352

Cedar Rapids, Ia 52406-2352

Call and License Class _____ Name _____
Date _____

Spouse Call and License Class _____ Spouse Name _____

Family Members' Call, Name, and License Class _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ -- _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (Cell) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ Please Print

Would you like to be added to the CVARC E-mail reflector? Yes () No ()

ARRL Member? Yes () No () VE Check if yes ARRL VE () W5YI VE ()

Are you interested in participating in Public Service Events? ()Yes ()No

Help with ham fest? Many job types available. () Yes () No

Dues Regular or Family: _____ \$10/year; Under 18 years of age: _____ \$5/year; Half year after July 1: _____ \$5

===== Club Use Only – Do NOT Write Below This Line =====

Recd: _____ Treas: _____ Entered: _____ Card: _____

Bandspread: _____