

W0GQ

W0WSV



Since 1949

BANDSPREAD



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

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, April 12th, 2007
7:30 p.m.

Tom Vinson, NY0V, and Rod Blocksom, K0DAS
The Search for Amelia Earhart
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 cvarcbrd@rf.org

Deadline for May issue is April 26th, 2007

BANDSPREAD

The Voice of the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club

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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
145.23Ø MHz (-6ØØ KHz)	Benton County ARES Net	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 kcønxo@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

April CVARC Meeting Preview

The April CVARC meeting will be held at the Kenwood Park United Methodist Church, 175 34th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, at 7:30 p.m on Thursday, April 12th.

Our guest speakers will be Tom Vinson, NY0V, and Rod Blocksme, K0DAS. They'll be speaking on the search for Amelia Earhart, and the techniques and equipment used to search for the evidence of her last flight.

Receive Notice of Bandsread by E-mail

Bandsread is now available in PDF format on the CVARC Website, at <http://cvarc.rf.org/Bandsread/>. Back issues for 2006 are in the 2006 subdirectory, and 2007 issues are in the 2007 subdirectory.

If you would like to get an e-mail notice of when the latest Bandsread 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.

MARCH 2007 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The March 2007 CVARC Board of Directors meeting was held Thursday, March 8, 2007 at 6:30 PM at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order by President WA6GFD. Others attending were: WA0KHH, N0XZL, WT0D, KC0PON, KC0OX, WA0ZZG, K0ECW, AA0II, K0AL, and KC0OOF.

The February 2007 Board minutes were approved by voice vote on a motion by KC0OOF and seconded by WA0ZZG.

WA6GFD presented a proposed budget. After discussion it was decided to reduce the estimated Summerfest income by \$100 to \$3,700 and to eliminate the estimated \$100 for repeater maintenance to provide a balanced budget. The reasoning for eliminating the repeater maintenance item was that if repairs were needed it probably would be considerably more than \$100 and whatever was needed would be taken from savings and the budget amended accordingly.

KC0PON reported the current checking account balance at \$1,733.49.

KC0OX reported that 115 persons attended the Storm Spotter Training at St. Luke's on March 3.

K0ECW reported that a new foot race is scheduled for Sunday, October 28 and CVARC has been asked to provide communications support by the event coordinators.

KC0OOF stated that he is going to have to order more ARRL books if we are to continue with the door prizes.

There were no dissenting comments.

The Secretary was requested by WA0KHH to send a note of thanks to the Trustees of the Zion Lutheran Church of Hiawatha for allowing CVARC to use their facilities for VE testing.

NOXZL asked for help in revamping the Summerfest flyer.

K0AL reported that one person showed up on March 5 at the Isaac Newton Christian Academy for the offered amateur classes. After discussion, it was decided NOT to try to organize any classes until fall.

WA6GFD reported receipt of an offer from World Radio Magazine that for \$70 per year they will provide listings of our monthly meetings, and any VE sessions or hamfests that we sponsor. A motion to accept this offer was made by WT0D and seconded by K0ECW – motion carried by voice vote.

WA0ZZG mentioned some recent FCC enforcement actions concerning RF Exposure limit violations by commercial stations and opined that this could be a concern for certain type amateur antenna installations (ground mounted verticals especially).

On a motion by KC0OOF and seconded by WA0ZZG, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Submitted by K0AL, Secretary

MARCH 2007 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The March 2007 General Membership meeting was held Thursday, March 8, 2007 at 7:30 PM at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order by President WA6GFD. All attendees introduced themselves with 49 members and guests present.

K0ECW reported on two Public Service opportunities; one a 5K race to be held on Saturday, May 19 in Marion and the other is a 5 & 15K race to be held on October 28.

K0AL reported on a hamfest in Sterling, IL this coming weekend and one in Des Moines on April 28.

KC0OX reported on the Storm Spotter class which was held at St. Luke's on March 3 which 115 persons attended.

AA0II reported that this evening's program would be by AB0QS on "Lightning Protection" and that April's program would be by K0DAS on "The Search for Amelia Earhart".

WA0ZZG reported on some recent FCC enforcement action against two commercial operators for violation of RF exposure limits which resulted in \$25,000 fines and cautioned amateurs with ground mounted vertical antennas to review the possible need for physical barriers to keep unauthorized persons from entering the near field radiation zone and thus exceeding the radiation limits.

WA0ZZG also reported on a new Sangean AM/FM

tuner that was getting rave reviews for those interested in AM broadcast DXing.

KC0PON reported a checking account balance of \$1,733.49.

WA0KHH reported on the March 21, 2007 VE session at Hiawatha, with 14 persons taking examinations.

KC0NXN reported that the East Iowa Science Fair (CVARC is a co sponsor of two awards) will be held Saturday, March 17 at the Lindale Mall and that he could use some help with judging.

A voice vote approved the motion by N0LNO and seconded by W0SS to approve the February minutes as published in the March issue of the Bandspread.

KC0PON displayed on the screen the proposed balanced budget.

A voice vote approved the motion by N0LNO and seconded by K0LYP to adopt the proposed 2007 CVARC budget.

WA6GFD asked for a show of hands of those present who did or could have operated after the recent power outage.

WT0D then sampled those present as to the length of time they were without commercial electricity.

At 8:00 PM, the meeting was adjourned for a short refreshment break.

After the refreshment break a drawing for the door prize (to be delivered at a later date) was won by N0LNO.

AA0II then introduced Larry Pinkston, AB0QS who gave a very interesting program on lightning protection as it applied to amateur radio installations.

Submitted by K0AL, Secretary

ARES Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2007

Attending: N0UUS, KB9CEF, KF0VF, KD0HF, WA6GFD, KC0OX, N0GUD

● Repeater outage during the winter storm

- 145.15 didn't come up when we went to it as backup.
- 146.745 had problems.
 - Transmitter power at one of the receive sites (north) was very low
 - Voter appeared to have trouble selecting which site to use
 - Most stations were on a low-power HT with small antennas at that point, so there wasn't a lot of signal to hit the receive sites.
- N0UUS reports that the repeater wasn't hittable

from Kirkwood, either.

○ Given that we couldn't raise the backup repeater, we moved back to CVARC. Some traffic was passed on 146.46, which provided reasonably reliable communications to the EOC.

○ KB9CEF asked if there was any traffic beforehand. We were running an informal net. He suggested that future nets should check whether the backup is available before we move everyone to the alternate repeater.

○ WA6GFD suggests that one of the link antennas may need to be replaced (not related to storm), and this may have contributed to the problem.

● WA6GFD says that it may be very good that it happened. It was a real exercise of our preparedness, good and bad. It's hard to swap connectors and such when the lights are out. For most of the people, this is the first time we've had such a widespread power outage that's lasted more than a few moments. This was the wake-up call for the community (both ham and otherwise) that we need to be ready for the worst-case scenario

● We debated opening up the net to a formal state, but we waffled a bit. Suggestion is to go formal sooner (better to be safe) and also collect reports. This will give everyone an opportunity to work their skills. We need to get the data in so we know where we're starting. Also, it is better to make a few mistakes in the earlier part of the net and get that ironed out before the truly critical information starts to be passed.

● KB9CEF asked if we do or do not have a standard way to start up a net at any time of year.

● N0UUS reports that the EOC/DAEC is used to exercising for a nuclear event, and thus weren't as prepared for what actually happened. We may have had the same problem. It was hard to determine what really needed to be passed and what did not. EOC didn't know that things were as widespread as they actually were. It's not typical for all of the area to have a problem at once. EOC could not raise Alliant to find out what was going on. Same could be said for the ham response as well.

● WA6GFD says that there may be times we want to self-actuate in that we start the net and get the reports, but not make formal contact with the EOC until we are called. N0UUS suggests that we need to get past the paradigm of public service – people have to have enough common sense to turn on the radio and find out what is going on. Collect the information in advance whenever possible, because we never know how valuable it will be in the end.

● WA6GFD: if you take a look at the Sunday net, we call by geography, and we get 35-40 checkins. We have people in each area, so even to cover the whole area, you

shouldn't need to contact too many stations. Had we been able to get folks to come up, we could have had somebody close enough in each area to get a good map of what parts of town had power. (Easier to find those guys than the ones without power.) Little to no travel would have been required.

- WA6GFD: a thought on the “special needs” list (and realizing that there are privacy issues with this) is that maybe we can call stations near those places. N0UUS: Salvation Army had volunteers who called all on that list, and found out that the list is not up-to-date. He says that the lessons from 9/11 and Katrina is that communities need to go through EMA, not directly to the state, or they do not, by definition, get any help.
- KC0OX: just have the people who check in mention whether or not they have power. This will draw a rough map.
- WA6GFD: handheld batteries and cell phones don't last long without power. Stations became much less effective after a couple of hours.
- N0UUS: simplex worked well. This was a prime example of planning ahead, having an outside antenna, and being prepared to transmit simplex. This was a good example of how emergency communications can “take it in the shorts.”
- N0UUS: it would almost be nice if we took an ICS approach and divided the city into quadrants, with predetermined frequencies set up for communications. We don't know what power the transmit and receive sites are on, and we didn't know their status.
- KC0OX: KCRG site has a generator, the MCI site does not. The transmitter has a battery – you'll lose power, but it will run. The transmitter tower is not on the non-interruptible power that the Rockwell facility uses.
- WA6GFD: it would be good to get from our served agencies a list or map of how they divide things up, so we are at least aware of their boundaries. That way, our reports can match up with what they see. KC0OX: Not aware of any boundaries other than what is published in the phone book.
- N0UUS: if each quadrant had its own frequency, information could be gathered more quickly.
- WA6GFD: we put the call out, but didn't get much feedback on the diesel fuel situation. That might be something to put on the list as a specific item: what stations have what kind of fuel, so we can always find the closest station that can still pump it. We can get a list of who has what fuel at their sites as well.
- N0UUS: it would be nice if hams with generators had an interlock where we could activate pumps at gas stations, or to nursing homes. Having these in place needs to

happen BEFORE the event. This is more something overall to take back to EMA.

- If we collect a database, we should do it fairly, as a one-time shot. (WA6GFD) This task should be done, but are we the ones who want/need to do this? N0UUS says that this is related to what ARES does, because we can't communicate without some sort of power, be it battery or generator.
- KD0HF suggests that the list should include which gas stations have generators. N0UUS said that EMA shouldn't, but Red Cross should. KD0HF said that as long as somebody has the list, it is useful.
- WA6GFD says that the database should have location of stations, what they carry, and whether they have emergency power as a starting point. Volunteers to do this?
- KC0OX and KB9CEF suggested that contacting the local co-ops or gasoline dealers' association and see if they have a list.
- KC0OX: feedback from the post-storm meeting at EMA last Tuesday: First, they had a “where are we now?” session to determine the starting state. There was discussion about how, in hindsight, they should have activated the EOC for that storm. Questions were asked as to why it was not. They probably would have, but nobody had actually asked them to do so. Everything was handled, nothing was exceeding the capabilities. Conclusion was that the inter-agency communications could have been better. Second, they were talking about how next time (for the second storm that didn't pan out) that they thought they should have had Amateurs staff the hospitals during the storms. N0UUS pointed out that there may be access issues (ID, knowing who you are, etc).
- WA6GFD: we're good with spotter training, because that's what we normally expect. It would be nice to do a search or business approach with EMA to get an idea of what you are thinking: staffing hospitals, etc, and then we can work that into our plans and what we do with the SET exercises. It allows us to train BEFORE we are asked to perform a particular task, which gives us the ability to better respond.
- N0UUS: Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Health Center all mentioned that it would have been nice to have hams at their locations. Why were we not called by them for this? KD0HF said that there's nobody in management at RC who has used ham radio. This may be an opportunity to work with them, although they seem to have no interest. N0UUS says that shelters are not an EMA thing, the call needs to come from RC or SA. KD0HF reports that their approach is the cell phone, and that's how they handled it. N0UUS said each agency needs its own group of hams, which should help with the liability issue as well.

- **KC0OX:** at Dayton, ARRL did a post-mortem on Katrina. The Red Cross finally took up the ARRL on their MOU, and requested 600 amateurs. ARRL wasn't prepared at a national level for that request – we normally work at a local level. The Emergency Response report is a reaction to that request, i.e. how do we respond nationally? (This would be in addition to how we work now.) So they want to create a database of trained responders at the national level. How do they populate that list reasonably, with competent people? The report suggests minimum training for all national responders. This list is not substantially different from what Iowa ARES has suggested for all members.

- Discussion followed on the concept of a national ARES “trained operator” ID, pros and cons.

Submitted by Ron, KC0OX

From the President's Desk

Spring is now upon us, as is the season for thunderstorms and lightning as we saw this last week and weekend. Hopefully the presentation from the March meeting on lightning helped you to look at your ground system to ensure your station is a protected as it can be. I thought the presentation was very good and certainly contained a great deal of good information.

As we continue into spring, the club will begin to provide support to a number of activities (watch K0ECW articles) and I encourage as many members as possible to come out and help with these activities and have some fun. If you know someone who is a new Ham and who might not have participated in a radio event, be sure to invite them, regardless of their club affiliation. Participation in these activities will provide a forum to have some fun and to meet with our fellow Hams outside the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all at the April Meeting on 12 April.

73, WA6GFD

From Eric Watson, Communications Activities Director

There are no planned communications activities for April.

Saturday, May 19 is the Marion Arts Festival 5K Run. Volunteers are needed to man the course and for net control. If you would like to participate please let me know via email, phone or on the W0GQ repeater. This event has a small course and should be a good experience for any ham new to public service events.

As of this writing the confirmed calendar of events is:

- May 19, Saturday, Marion 5K

- June 3, Sunday, Pigman Sprint
- June 23-24, Saturday and Sunday, Field Day
- August 19, Sunday, Pigman

Watch the Bandspread for more events.

Communications Activities are open to all Amateurs regardless of experience. If you would like to volunteer or have questions about any event please contact me.

Eric Watson, K0ECW

K-12 Corner

The 2007 Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair (EISEF) was held at Lindale Mall on Saturday, 17 March. There 203 exhibits put up by 263 students in five divisions. This year CVARC and the Collins ARC again co-sponsored an award for the best use of radio or radio-electronics in a project at the EISEF. Four volunteers from the local ham community were the judges for this award: Sam Dillon, KC0TKF, Jon Klinkefus, W0JMK, Mike Miller, KC0NXN, and Eric Watson, K0ECW, who is this year's communications director for CVARC.

We had a lot to choose from this year, but we found a clear winner in both the Senior and Junior divisions.

Matthew Boddicker, from the UNI Upward Bound Math & Science in Waterloo, won the Senior division prize for "No Strings Attached!" The experiment, in the Senior Physical division, used a home-built Tesla coil to demonstrate the potential to transmit power without wires. He received the ARRL Handbook.



Matthew Boddicker and Danny Davies. Photo Courtesy of the Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair.

Danny Davies, from Harding Middle School in Cedar Rapids, won the Junior division prize for "The

Effects of Air Pressure on the Growth of Plants." His experiment in the Junior Biological division depended on his home-built circuit to monitor air pressure. He received the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (Tech exam manual).

In addition to the books, each winner received a \$25 gift certificate to Radio Shack and the current CVARC brochures "Ham Radio in Education," "Public Service" and "You can be a Ham."

For more information about the EISEF, visit <http://www.eisef.org/>.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to the volunteer judges!

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 kc0nrxn@arrl.net

KC0NXXN & KC0NXXO

Benton County March VE Session Busy

The March 15 Benton County VE session provided six new and/or upgraded licenses. Four were Amateur General licenses, while two were Amateur Extra licenses.

The next Benton County VE session will be on April 19th at Washington High School in Vinton at 5: 15 p.m.

From KØHWE - ARRL / W5YI VE

HandiHams Accepting Donations

The Courage HandiHam System is dedicated t to providing enabling technology and Ham radio assistance to people with disabilities. At <http://www.handiham.org>, they have a wide variety of newsletters and information about their work.

If you are interested in donating used Ham gear, you may call them at 1-866-426-3442 to discuss a possible donation or volunteer opportunity.

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?

KCØNXXN & KCØNXXO

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

For sale; Heathkit SB101 and power supply. Worked fine a year ago. Have spares for all tubes except finals. \$75 or make me an offer. Nick Brown AB0WE 446-7747

Free to whoever can remove it: A 60+ feet tower with attached antenna, no longer used by business. (The tower appears to be Rohn 25 with a 4-bay VHF folded dipole antenna. – KC0OX) If interested, Contact Randy Kelley at Cedar Rapids Lumber 365-0467 or randykelleycrl@qwest.net

QST's in ARRL binders, 1962 through 2005. Also includes 4 new binders and a number of other ARRL magazines - \$300; Ham Radio in binders, 1971 through 1990 - \$150. (Given that binders sell for \$22 EACH, this is a bargain on binders alone and the magazines are free!)

Contact Jim Spencer at w0sr@arrl.net or call 393-7353

DRAKE TR7/DR7, w/NB-7 noise blanker, AUX-7 board, SL-500, SL-1800, SL-6000 filters, and FA-7 fan, S/N#6294 with PS-7 heavy duty power supply, Drake 7077 desk microphone with all original manuals, very nice condition - \$800; DRAKE MN2700 Matching Network Tuner S/N#217 w/Drake B-1000 Balun, original manual, mint condition - \$650; DRAKE External speaker MS-7, good condition - \$110; DRAKE TR-7 Service manual and service boards - \$150.

Contact Steve at sjhill@realitydiluted.com or 329-6387.

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 kc0nxxo@arrl.net

All advertisements must be renewed monthly!

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 _____ Name _____ Date _____

Spouse Call _____ Spouse Name _____

Family Members' Call and Name _____

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: _____

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