

W0GQ

W0WSV



Since 1949

BANDSPREAD



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

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, December 13th, 2007

6:30 PM

Annual Holiday Dinner

at **Happy Chef, 365 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids**

(Note venue change)

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 January 2008 issue is December 27th, 2007

BANDSPREAD

The Voice of the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club

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ARRL Volunteer Consulting Eng	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
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

DECEMBER CVARC MEETING PREVIEW

The December CVARC meeting will be the annual holiday party. It will start at 6:30 pm on Thursday December 13, and will be held at Happy Chef at 365 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids.

The cost of the meal for Club Members, their family, or significant other is \$5 per person with the club picking up the rest of the tab. For Non-Club members, visitors and guests who are not a paid member of the club, the cost is \$15.00.. CVARC will pay the remainder of the dinner cost. The menu will be chicken, Salisbury steak and popcorn shrimp with salad bar.

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 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 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.

NOVEMBER 2007 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The November 2007 meeting of the Board of Director's of the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club was held November 8, 2007 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. Due to illness, President WA6GFD was absent; and the meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Vice-President WT0D. Others in attendance were; K0AL, AA0II, NA0IA, K0ECW, KC0PON, WA0ZZG and KC0OX.

A motion made by NA0IA and seconded by KC0OX approving the October 2007 Board Meeting minutes as published in the November Bandspread. The motion carried by voice vote.

KC0PON reported that the checking account balance is \$3,876.02.

WT0D announced that the nominating committee for this year's election will be WA6GFD, WA0ZZG and K0AL.

It was announced that this year's Holiday Party will be held December 13 @ 6:30 PM at the 33rd Ave. Happy Chef. Per past practice, immediate family and significant others may attend with the member and that a \$5 charge per attending person will be charged with the club absorbing the difference between the \$5 charge and the actual cost of the meal and gratuity.

A discussion was lead by AA0II concerning holding a "club swap" session in the spring. Several options and complications were brought up including the traditional "pre-Dayton" swap held by the Collins Club. No further action was taken on this subject at this time.

AA0II inquired about CVARC purchasing CDs / DVDs for use as club &/or promotional programs. The consensus was that he could purchase them within the limit of his authorized budget without additional approval. It was mentioned that ARRL has some which may be available at discount.

K0ECW discussed 2008 Public Service opportunities known at the present.

K0ECW discussed his desire to purchase a number of magnetic signs that could be used by members when participating in Public Service events to more readily identify the vehicle. He had a quote of \$21.42 per sign if 10 or more were purchased at a time,

A motion by NA0IA and seconded by KC0PON to purchase 10 such signs to be retained by the Communications / Activity Director. Motion carried by voice vote.

A motion by K0AL and seconded by WA0ZZG that we offer to all club members the opportunity to purchase such signs at CVARC's cost where if the member buys one sign CVARC will purchase the companion sign, with a limit of one set per household. Motion carried by voice vote.

NA0IA noted that this evening's door prize will be the ARRL publication "Emergency Communications." He also noted that he was working on appropriate Certificates of Appreciation for members whose terms will be expiring at year end.

KC0OX said he would give a Witch Watch report at the general membership meeting.

KC0OX reported that St. Luke's purchased a new dual band antenna for amateur use. The new mast is up and awaiting installation at this time.

KC0OX brought up some points concerning extra items that appear to no longer be of use on the old

membership application forms.

NA0IA discussed additional mailing costs to provide copies to other clubs as well as random mailing to area non-members. A discussion item was the printing costs for the extra copies. KC0OX was to check on this item and report at a subsequent Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Submitted by K0AL, Secretary

OCTOBER 2007 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The November 2007 general membership meeting was held Thursday, November 8, 2007 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice-President WT0D. All attendees and guests introduced themselves with 42 members and guests present.

WT0D announced the members on this year's Nominating Committee. They are WA6GFD, WA0ZZG and K0AL. He also asked that anyone interested in serving on the committee contact one of the committee members or the one of the officers of the club.

WT0D announced the 2007 Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2007 commencing at 6:30 PM at the Happy Chef restaurant on 33rd Ave SW. All members, immediate family members and significant others are welcome. A \$5 per head charge will be made with the club absorbing the difference between the actual costs for the meal and gratuity.

KC0OX reported that St. Luke's had purchased a new dual band antenna. The mast is now in place awaiting installation of the antenna.

KC0OX reported on Witch Watch 2007 in which 6 mobiles participated driving a total of 737 miles. Two of the mobiles were equipped with APRS which seemed to impress the Deputies on duty!

KC0OX read a letter of appreciation from Sheriff Zeller.

K0ECW reported on 5 Public Service events which are already on the 2008 calendar.

K0ECW reported that N0THE was looking for some amateur volunteers for a 5k Run known as the "Turkey Trot" to be held November 17. This is not a CVARC event.

On a motion by NA0IA and seconded by W0SS, the minutes of the October meeting as printed in the

November Bandspread were approved by voice vote.

KC0PON reported a current checking account balance of \$3,876.02.

K0ECW reported that the club will be purchasing 10 magnetic signs for use by volunteers at Public Service events signifying the vehicle is providing emergency communications. These signs will be retained by the club Communications / Activities Director. Eric further explained that Board authorized an offer to any member who wishes to purchase one such sign for themselves may do so at the actual club cost and that the club will provide such members accepting this offer with a second sign at no cost the member. Only one such sign will be provided per membership household.

KC0NXN announced that he and Laura always welcome material for the Bandspread and they also seek suggestions for improving the Bandspread.

NA0IA announced that amateur classes will be offered after the first of the year. The scheduling will be completed once we receive a commitment from the Weather Bureau for the date of the Storm Spotter class. Classes offered will be in response to requested license grades and include the possibility of CW if there is demand.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM on a motion by NA0IA and seconded by K0ECW.

After the social break, NA0IA held the door prize drawing, The ARRL publication "75 Years Of Amateur Radio," was won by N0VNV, Edward Rief.

A very interesting program was given by Paul Wagner titled "The ABC's of DSP in SDR." While this may sound like doublespeak to us old timers, it certainly heralds what will be amateur radio in the future.

Submitted by K0AL, Secretary

ARES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 6 SEPTEMBER 2007

Attending: N0GUD (recording), KC0OX, WA6GFD, KF0VF, K0ECW

- Past Events
- Witch Watch
 - APRS was used to fairly good effect
 - Six cars, 737 miles. Ran roughly from 1730 to 2210.
 - KC0OX will write something up for the Bandspread.

- Had a stuck mic fairly early. Worked simplex after repeater timed out.
- Night was quiet. Biggest event was pumpkins in Central City.
- Devil's Dash
 - Event went smoothly.
 - Much of it was line-of-sight, as it was in the open area of the park.
 - We did some traffic control, which is beyond our normal purview.
 - This may become an annual event.
- Upcoming Events
 - Turkey Trot - 17 November
 - Will be led up by Hawkeye Radio Communications
- Projects
 - St Luke's Antenna
 - Tomorrow at 0730, WA6GFD and KD0HF will meet with St Luke's personnel to do a site survey of the roof.
 - This is a bit of a priority project for our served agency.
 - Goal for tomorrow is to have a working plan for installation.
 - Mercy Medical Center
 - Introduced for consideration, given St Luke's project.
 - Looking for contacts at the hospital.
 - Should mirror what we are doing at St Luke's.
 - Diesel Database
 - We have a few updates from Witch Watch, but not many new stations.
 - Database overall is progressing.
 - Will present to CVARC to see if members are willing to help fill the list.
 - Might consider an application written to poll Google Maps for addresses and location.
 - EMA Antennas
 - No report.
 - EMA station improvement
 - Permanent RS232 connection issue is still active.
 - Need to determine what kind of slots are in the computers.
 - Question: Should we invest in any new software for the EMA station? Ideas include some sort of radar package, scanner software. Ideas should go to KC00X.
- New Items
 - KF0VF reports that someone from Johnson County wants us to add the Johnson County sideband net to the end of the net script. Some discussion followed concerning the nature of nets we include in the script. Consensus was to allow it. Frequency is 144.190. Net occurs when the Johnson County 1930 net is over, so no set time.
- Dual net operation
 - WA6GFD has started a draft that follows the severe weather format.
 - The intent is to bring something to the group as a "straw man" to see if we can find bugs in the system and work them out.
 - The concept is if we have an emergency net of some sort, and we started to get damage reports, the NCS could set a station on an alternate frequency to handle the damage reports there. This would allow the emergency net to continue while the damage reports (or other data, not limited to just damage) are handled.
 - Initial take should be ready by the next meeting.
 - Frequency decision would be made at the time by NCS.
 - We should discuss the guidelines of what gets reported on each net.
 - ◆ Life-threatening, things that limit movement of emergency vehicles, property-threatening would be good candidates for direct EMA traffic.
 - ◆ Reports not pertaining to immediately threatening items would move to other net.
 - ◆ Might start taking statistical data for NWS. We as a county do not report a lot of this to NWS.
 - ◆ One criterion for when to spawn the net new is the level of traffic on the primary frequency.
- Long-range planning
 - ARES primary charter: back-up communications for our served agencies during disaster situations.
 - We should aim to develop a local relationship with the Salvation Army.
 - ◆ They can be invited to a regular ARES meeting for discussions. We can also invite them to observe some of our net events to give them a feel for what we can do for them.
 - ◆ We could survey their sites to see if we can put in a temporary or semi-permanent station there.

- Some discussion followed concerning how to help agencies achieve cross-functional communication.
 - Some discussion followed about how modern technology can actually make interoperability more difficult.
 - Noted that when technology makes things easier, often the administrative aspects inhibit interoperability.
 - We need to find someone who will volunteer to teach the ICS/NIMS classes. FEMA has a hybrid class where the material is taught in person, but the test is taken on-line, so certificates are issued directly by FEMA. This will require access to a bank of internet-connected computers for the class.
- Submitted by Ron, KC0OX

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Here it is December already, how this year has flown by. I hope that each and everyone of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you are looking forward to a even better Christmas and New Year.

I would like to invite all of you to our annual Christmas Party that will be held the evening of 13 December (our regular meeting night) at the Happy Chef on 33rd Avenue SW. The cost of the meal will be \$5.00 for members and \$15.00 for Non-Members. The menu will be very similar to what we had last year. The staff at Happy Chef has really gone out of their way the past couple of years to make this a great event and have promised to do so again this year. The event will begin at 6:30 PM.

Don't forget we are also in our annual election cycle and are looking for folks who are interested in holding an office on the Board of Directors and to help us make this coming year as successful as this past year has been.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Party and want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

73, WAGGFD, Steve

FROM ERIC WATSON, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

There is no December column from Eric. Do watch this space in January for a lot of new information.

K-12 CORNER

Around this time of year we go through our back issues of magazines and bundle up the older issues for donation to a school or library. This year our stack of older QST's is going to a high school student who is interested in getting his ham ticket. We're hoping that with this added encouragement he'll start studying for the Technician exam. As you go through your stacks, are there any radio magazines that you could pass on to a student?

Other groups besides the ARRL are interested in reaching young people. AMSAT has published designs for "Cheap and Easy Yagi Satellite Antennas" for 2m and 70cm that can be built with hand tools at very low cost. Based on a design by Kent Britain, WA5VJB, these cover the main bands used by several amateur radio satellites as well as the International Space Station. We have first-person reports that the 2m antenna, pointed by hand, works fine for talking with the astronauts on the ISS. The construction articles are here: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/information/faqs/crow/>.

The next Kid's Day is Saturday, 6 January 2008. From ARRL's web site, at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>, the purpose of Kid's Day in January and June is "...intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future...." The time is noon CST to 1800 (1800Z to 2400Z). They add "suggested frequencies: 28.350 to 28.400 MHz, 24.960 to 24.980 MHz, 21.360 to 21.400 MHz, 18.140 to 18.145 MHz, 14.270 to 14.300 MHz, 7.270 to 7.290 MHz, 3.740 to 3.940 MHz, as well as your favorite 2-meter repeater (with permission of the repeater's sponsor). Be sure to observe third-party restrictions when making DX QSOs." Note that the only frequencies in this list available to Technicians are in the 10 meter band (28.300-28.500 MHz SSB upper sideband).

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 WorkedAll States, we'd like to share that good news. Please contact us at kc0nrxn@arrl.net

KC0NXXN & KC0NXXO

WITCH WATCH REPORT

We had another good Witch Watch, with 6 cars participating and patrolling a total of 737 miles during the evening of Halloween. We got on the road about 5:50 PM, and reassembled to get our tanks refilled at about 10:15 PM. It was a relatively quiet night, with the exception of a truckload of pumpkins dumped on the bridge in Central City. Our drivers also called in a disabled car in the traveled portion that the LCSD later towed, and called in an unattended fire in a park.

A new twist this year was the use of APRS to track the KA0YSQ and KC0OX mobiles. (No, I was NOT running around the Kirkwood Trailer Courts. I was too busy getting lost trying to follow a detour to Ely. -OX). The Deputies down at dispatch were reported to be impressed, especially by the fact that real time positions were available over the Internet.

Thanks to all that participated this year: The cars participating were KC0OX (rider N0VNV), KC0JAR (Rider Jeff Wilden), K0ECW (rider KC0WUZ), KA0YSQ (rider Kelley), WA6GFD (rider KC0VJI), and KC0VT. A Special thank you to our net controls KD0HF and WA0ZZG, and to N0GUD for being the coordinator with the Sheriffs Department.

Ron, KC0OX

A THANK-YOU FOR WITCH WATCH

Dear Scott and the other members of the Linn County Amateur Radio Emergency Service,

This is just a brief note to express my appreciation and thanks for your help again this year. We have come to really depend on your volunteering and helping us out.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Don Zeller.

(Linn County Sheriff)

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

FOR SALE 60" lengths of new RG-8x low loss coax. SMA or SMP connector on one end. \$15 each. K0LYP John. 319-396-4997

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!

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: _____