

W0GQ

W0WSV



Since 1949

BANDSPREAD



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

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, March 8th, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Lightning Protection, by Larry Pinkston, AB0QS

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 April issue is March 29, 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

March CVARC Meeting Preview

The March 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, March 8th. Please note that we are returning to our regular venue.

Our guest speaker will be Larry Pinkston, AB0QS. Larry will speak on Lighting Safety. This is a particularly appropriate topic at this time, as we are entering the storm-spotting season. Many of you have already noticed the lightning that accompanied the storms of the past two weeks.

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.

FEBRUARY 2007 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The February 2007 CVARC Board of Directors meeting was held Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 6:30 PM at the St. Luke's Hospital auditorium. The meeting was called to order by President WA6GFD.

Others attending were: WA0KHH, N0XZL, WT0D, KC0PON, KC0OX, WA0ZZG, K0ECW, AA0II, K0AL, KC0OOF and N0LN0.

AA0II reported he will be purchasing some promotional materials to be given at Public Service events and that the total will be less than the authorized amount.

KC0PON reported the current checking account balance at \$1,690.29.

K0AL presented a resolution authorizing and naming Guaranty Bank as depository for CVARC funds. A motion to approve by WT0D and seconded by WA0ZZG was carried by voice vote.

The Secretary was directed to mail a membership application to all persons in Linn and abutting counties who had received their first amateur license this past year offering them to receive our monthly "Bandspread" and to attend monthly meetings. To

become a voting member they would need pay dues per our bylaws. A motion approving this was made by K0ECW, seconded by KC0OX and was carried by voice vote.

N0XZL presented a proposed Summerfest budget calling for an estimated NET income to the club of \$2,762.00.

WA6GFD announced that he would be e-mailing a proposed CVARC 2007 budget to all BOD members.

WA0ZZG mentioned possible publicity promotions covering CVARC activities.

K0ECW said it was his intention to reach out to new hams to participate in coming Public Service events.

WA0KHH announced the FCC rules changes concerning no-code licensing requirements which become effective February 23. The Benton Country ARC will sponsor a VE session on February 23. WA0KHH has a VE session scheduled for Friday, March 2 at 7:00 PM at the Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 on a motion by WT0D and seconded by KC0OOF which carried on a voice vote.

Submitted by K0AL, Secretary

FEBRUARY 2007 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The February 2007 General Membership meeting was held Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 7:30 PM at the St. Luke's Hospital Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by President WA6GFD. All attendees introduced themselves with 38 members and guests present.

On a motion by N0LN0 and seconded by N0XZL, the January meeting minutes as printed in the February 2007 Bandspread were approved on a voice vote.

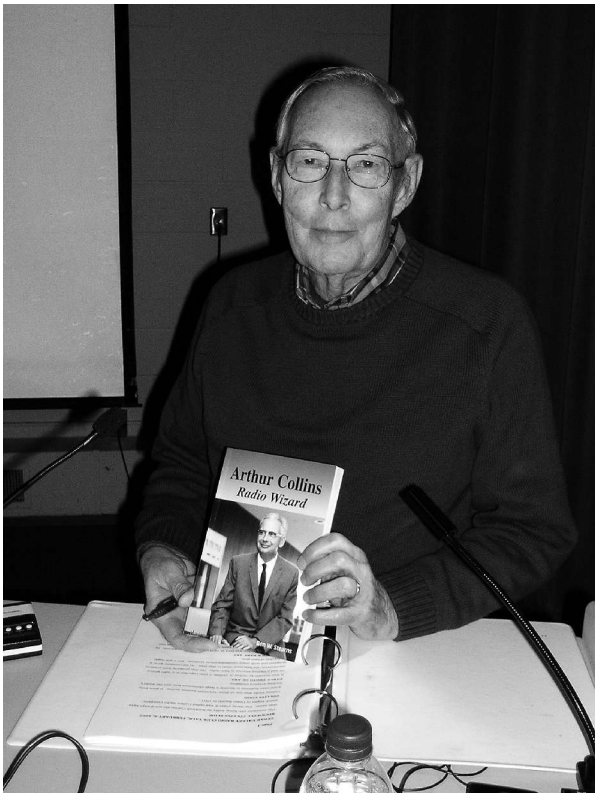
KC0PON reported a checking account balance of \$1,690.29.

WA0KHH reported on the new FCC rules governing amateur licensing and announced that a VE session is scheduled to be held Friday, March 2, 2007 at the Zion Lutheran church in Hiawatha, IA. He also announced that the Benton County ARC will hold a VE session on Friday, February 23 in Vinton.

KC0OX reported on a meeting with Weather Bureau personnel at Davenport, IA. New antenna installation

has improved coverage of W0GQ repeater at the Weather Bureau station. Basic Storm Spotter training will be held in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, February 24 at 12:30 PM in the St. Luke's auditorium.

A request for CVARC to co-sponsor (with the Collins ARC) awards for the coming Science Fair was made by KC0NXN. A motion to approve an award of \$25 plus an ARRL Handbook for the Senior Division and a \$25 award and an ARRL Technician License Manual for the Junior Division was approved on a motion by WT0D, seconded by K0AL and carried by voice vote.



Mr. Ben Stearns with his book. Photo courtesy of Dave, WA0ZZG.

After a brief adjournment, a very interesting program was presented by Mr. Ben Stearns, the author of the book *Arthur Collins, Radio Wizard*. His audio-visual program highlighted radio accomplishments of Arthur Collins at a young age which propelled him into creating a company that became a world leader in radio communications development.

Submitted by K0AL, Secretary

CORRECTION TO JANUARY 2007 MEETING MINUTES

The second for the nomination of Jason, AA0II, for the office of program director, was from

KC0WUZ, Terry, rather than from Larry, KC0WVZ.

ARES Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2007

Attending: KD8BFQ, N0GUD, KD0HF, WA6GFD, KF0VF, NA0IA

- Action Item Review
 - Items reviewed
 - Red Cross did not have a January meeting, so the weather spotter training was not announced. KD0HF has a flyer to provide to them.
- Weather Spotters Training
 - WA6GFD will handle registration
 - Registration at 1230, training starts at 1300
 - Advanced training is still TBD as of a couple of days ago. Rumor is that it will be in Independence, but not a lot else is known.
 - Mainly the same format as in the past.
- Ideas for SET 2007
 - WA6GFD handed out reports from the 2006 SET.
 - NA0IA suggested that we could map the coverage. He has some maps that may serve.
 - WA6GFD says KC0PON has satellite views over which we could superimpose the data in the report.
 - All who received copies should analyze the data and make comments at the next meeting or on the reflector.
 - WA6GFD asked if the ARRL website shows any idea of what they are looking for this year. Nobody present has yet seen such on the site, but will check again.
 - We should have something more like a communications drill rather than a radio check. The radio check in 2006 was necessary to test coverage of our new installations, but we need to exercise operator skills as well.
 - We should involve some of our served agencies, and maybe the new “mobile hospital.”
 - There is supposed to be a mass casualties exercise (pandemic outbreak scenario). It

would be nice if we could coordinate with that. It might require being ahead of the normal SET exercise.

- KF0VF says that K0ECW (Eric) has expressed interest in being net control for the Sunday nets. We will need someone for the fourth Sunday, as John (W0NEW) is out of town during construction season.
- WA6GFD says that the FRP is being flowed down, and one of the many appendices pertains to communications. The intent is much like when they pushed some of the NCS and NIMS stuff downward. Once these reach the local level, they become the templates for the local plans. He reports that amateur radio is not mentioned at the national level, although the MOUs still stand with federal agencies.
- KD0HF asked if anything needs to be done to maintain or check the radar at Collins before storm season starts. N0GUD and KC0OX will add this to the action item list.

Submitted by Ron, KC0OX

From the President's Desk

It seems that February was determined to go out with a bang! I hope that none of you suffered any damage as a result of the ice and high winds. As we recover from the effects of the storm it is an excellent time to ask ourselves were we adequately prepared?

Did we have flashlights or other lights readily available? Did we have a battery powered radio that could be tuned to local broadcast stations to hear any special instructions from local officials? Were we prepared with an alternate source of power to keep our radios on the air should we be needed?

This was the first major storm event of this type since I moved to Iowa a little over 5 years ago and while I thought I was pretty well prepared, I found there were some things that I definitely need to improve on to be better prepared for the next event. Now is the time to look back on your preparedness and determine if there were some things that you could have done better, could have been better organized, or that can be done to better prepare you and your family for the next big event. Perhaps we could share some of the good ideas or things that worked well in future Bandsread articles.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next CVARC meeting on the 8th of March.

73, WA6GFD

From Eric Watson, Communications Activities Director

There are no planned communications activities for March.

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 Bandsread 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

Upcoming Regional HAM Radio Events:

1. Sterling - Rock Falls, Illinois
Sunday, March 11, 2007
Doors open @ 7:30 AM
Sterling, IL @ Challand Middle School
VE Session @ 9:00 AM
2. Des Moines, Iowa
Sunday, April 29, 2007
Doors open 8:00 AM
7 Flags Event Center
2100 NW 100th Street
Clive, Iowa
3. Marshalltown, Iowa
Saturday, July 7, 2007
Picnic (potluck) and hamfest
9:00 Am until whenever
Marshalltown Community College

March 2nd VE Session Results

Last Friday night, March 2nd, was the first time that a VE session was held in Cedar Rapids since the FCC eliminated the Morse code requirement for license upgrades. Darrel Peterson, WA0KHH, and the local VE team were set up at Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha. Fourteen candidates were tested, resulting in two new Technicians, nine upgrades from Technician to General, and two upgrades from Technician to Amateur Extra.

CVARC congratulates new and upgraded hams, and thanks the VE team for another successful test

session.

73, Mike, KC0NXN, and your CVARC VE team.

Storm Spotter Training Moved to March 3rd

The annual severe weather spotter training was conducted on 3 March 2007. The session was conducted by Donna Dubberke, KC5MDO, and the members of her staff. The session was well attended with approximately 115 people in attendance, with the attendees being roughly split 50/50 between amateurs and non-amateurs. There were several non-amateurs who were interested in obtaining an amateur radio license.



John Haase, Forecaster, and Linda Engebretson, KC0VEW, Senior Forecaster, assisted Donna Dubberke, KC5MDO, with the Basic Storm Spotter Training. Photo courtesy of Dave, WA0ZZG.

The session was a basic training session and most of the time was spent helping the student recognize the various parts of a thunderstorm cell and the specific items to look for when looking for tornado activity. It also stressed the need for safety and situational awareness at all times when spotting or when you are out when thunderstorms are present. In addition, the refined tornado rating scale (EF) was discussed and explained. The new scale will help to more accurately describe the strength of the storm based on wind damage.

For those interested in advanced spotter training, the closest session will be held on March 31, 2007 in Independence Iowa at the Mental Health Institute and will start at 1:30PM. A basic spotter session will be held in the morning starting at 10:30AM. For more information on storms, spotter training, or other weather related information go to the Quad Cities NWS website at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dvn/>

from WA6GFD.

Request For Preparedness Articles

Steve, WA6GFD, requested a discussion of lessons learned during the recent spate of winter storms. Please send brief information on what you learned about your preparedness, what went right, and what you'd like to improve.

We lost power for less than three hours. We learned that our multitude of LED flashlights performed very well. We had a large battery for running equipment, and it was fully charged. We had plenty of water and food (although boring) suitable for eating without heating, and had a large supply of hand-warmer packets.

But we didn't have our camp stove easily accessible, and cooking with it on the front porch in that wind would have been painful. Although we have an antenna in our attic for low-power use, any of our temporary antennas for mounting outside would have been overwhelmed by the wind. As it was, KC0NXN noted a half-inch coating of ice on the car-mounted antenna when he came home on Saturday at noon.

Lessons? Move the stove to a better spot in the garage. Make sure we have plenty of charcoal for the small windproof grill. Figure out a better way to de-ice antennas than parking the car in a frozen garage. Find out what portable, temporary, windproof, antenna designs would work with our radios, and build them.

What did you learn?

Laura, KC0NXO

K-12 Corner

"Assistance is needed..." CVARC and Collins ARC have approved joint sponsorship of a special award at the Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair (EISEF). This year's fair is on Saturday, 17 March at Lindale Mall in Cedar Rapids. We need hams to volunteer to be judges, to decide which project displays the best use of radio or radio-electronics in their exhibit. A maximum of one award will be given in the Senior division, and a maximum of one award will be given in the Junior division. The judging takes place in the morning, and our part usually wraps up after two to three hours. Sponsoring this award is another way for us to raise awareness of ham radio in the community, and to reach students who are likely to be interested in amateur radio with a specific message.

A project or exhibit will be considered for the award in its division if

- 1) It is a suitable science fair project. That is, the exhibit must demonstrate that the students have applied the scientific method to their project (hypothesis, controlled experiment, recorded results, conclusions), AND
- 2) The students can demonstrate knowledge or understanding gained in the Radio/Electronics subject area, AND
- 3) Any of the following:
 - a) A radio or electronic apparatus is the main point of the exhibit, for example using different antennas to determine which type works better; OR
 - b) A radio or electronic apparatus is an important part of the exhibit, but is not the main point, such as an analog-to-digital converter used to gather data from an experiment; OR
 - c) A software program written or modified by the student, or a research paper related to radio or radio-electronics, such as a program to analyze sound samples to look for particular frequencies or amplitudes.

Basically, any project that tries to answer a question or has a hypothesis that bears on radio or radio-electronics should be considered for the award, as well as any project where the design and construction of the experimental apparatus demonstrates skills that can be applied to Amateur Radio. A "look, it works!" project would not be a strong contender for this award.

If you would like to help, please contact Mike Miller by email at kc0nxxn@arrl.net, or by telephone at 377-5929

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 kc0nxxn@arrl.net

KC0NXN & KC0NXO

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:

Due to cancer, K0SIA is selling the following: Mint condition, Ten Tec Orion II/1.8khz, 600khz, 300khz filters/Ten Tec 963 25 amp P.S./Encorder Pad Ten Tec # 302R - \$3400; Ameritron AL-80B used little - \$650; LDG AT-1000 AutoTuner - \$375; Kenwood PS-52 Power Supply - \$100; Most used item, Johnson 275W MatchBox - \$75

k0sia@yahoo.com or 319-377-7270

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 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 Bandsread 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 Bandsread
- 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: _____

Bandsread: _____ Emergency Director: _____ Comm. Act. Director: _____