

W0GQ

W0WSV



Since 1949

## BANDSPREAD



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

## CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, May 10th, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

Measuring HF Seawave Propagation from an Airplane

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](mailto:cvarcbrd@rf.org)

**Deadline for June issue is May 31st, 2007**

# **BANDSPREAD**

*The Voice of the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club*

## **Bandspread Staff**

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## **Club Appointments**

Station Trustee	Al Groff, KØVM	k0vm@arrl.net	393-8134
VE Manager	Darrel Peterson, WAØKHH	wa0khh@juno.com	393-8667
Club Historian	Dave Foster, NØCYH		377-8568
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Training/Education Committee			
Hamfest Chairman	Rick Olney, NØXZL	rolney@qwest.net	396-8979

## **ARRL Appointments**

Linn County Emer.Coordinator	Scott Haney, NØGUD		366-1465
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ARRL Iowa Section Manager	James Lasley, NØJL	n0jl@arrl.org	
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 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

## MAY 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, May 10th.

Our guest speaker will be Rod Blocksome, KODAS. He'll be speaking on Measuring HF Seawave Propagation from an Airplane. This will be an audio-visual presentation. Come and see another part of the world with the help of radio.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:k0vm@arrl.net).

## APRIL 2007 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The April 2007 Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Director's meeting was held April 12, 2007 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by WA6GFD. Others in attendance were: K0AL, N0XZL, WA0KHH, KC0PON, KC0OOF, KC0OX, K0ECW, AA0II, WA0ZZG and WT0D.

A voice vote approved the motion by KC0OX and seconded by WA0ZZG to approve the March 2007 Board minutes as printed in the Bandspread.

WA0ZZG led a discussion concerning an official proclamation for Field Day. In the past he has been able to get both Mayoral and Gubernatorial proclamations and thought he might try for a Presidential proclamation.

K0ECW reviewed some Public Service opportunities. As usual, there will be a conflict between the Dragon Boat races and Field Day. A new event will be a 5 and 15K run at Seminole Park on October 28.

N0XZL showed drafts of the Summerfest flyers. A

discussion was held on bulk mailing and the radius that would yield the most results. It was decided a radius from Cedar Rapids of 125 to 150 miles would include the Des Moines area as well as a reasonable coverage of western Illinois. N0XZL will approach ARRL for a cost of printed labels for that area.

K0AL reported that Dick Eidemiller had gifted the club with some older handbooks and manuals with the intention that they would be sold and the proceeds given to the CVARC Treasury. It was suggested that we use the "silent auction" method as this would not interfere with the club program and would take little time and effort.

KC0OX reported that we were experiencing problems with the reflector not recognizing messages originating from the ISP "MCHSI". Ron also reported that Florida Power and Light (the new operator of the Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant) wants to do dosimeter training for CVARC and would require an estimated 45 minutes. After reviewing coming programs, it was suggested that the May or July meeting would be suitable.

In that there has been some concerns about liability between CVARC operators and the Linn County EMA (Emergency Management Agency) it has been suggested that a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) be entered into. KC0OX distributed a draft of a possible agreement. This agreement will be reviewed by the other parties for comment.

After some discussion, WA0KHH offered to set a VE session for mid May. [*Ed. Note: See article -May 11<sup>th</sup>.*]

KC0PON reported a checking account balance of \$1,720.36.

A voice vote approved the motion that had been made by WT0D and seconded by K0ECW to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Submitted by K0AL, Secretary

## APRIL 2007 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The April 2007 general membership meeting was held Thursday, April 12, 2007 in the Kenwood United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President WA6GFD. All attendees and guests introduced themselves with 56 members and guests present.

A voice vote approved a motion by NA0IA and seconded by N0XZL to approve the March minutes as

published in the Bandspread.

K0ECW reviewed coming Public Service opportunities.

WA0ZZG gave a report on Field Day plans and his hopes to get an official proclamation for the event.

KC0PON reported that the checking account balance is \$1,720.36.

K0AL reported that Dick Eidemiller had given the club several older ARRL and Editors and Engineers handbooks and manuals and that they were going to be placed on a table in the back with a sheet for those attending to participate in a "silent auction" to purchase said items during the social break.

A voice vote approved a motion by W0GWK and seconded by N0VNV to raise the amount approved by a previous vote supporting the awards previously announced for the Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair to the actual costs that were slightly above the approved amount.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM for a social break while the program was set up.

After the social break, a very interesting program was presented by K0DAS and NY0V chronicling the efforts to locate the aircraft that Amelia Earhart was flying when she disappeared in 1937 while trying to circumnavigate the globe at the equator. To date the efforts have been met with circumstances that limited their search time. However, they remain confident and are looking forward to resuming the search.

Submitted by K0AL, Secretary

## **ARES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 5TH, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hours by KC0OX.

Present: KC0OX, KD0HF, KF0VF, KC0OOF, WA6GFD, NA0IA

### ➤ Past Weather Net

→ Weather Checklist Items were reviewed to see if any updates are required

- Saturday Net went pretty close to the checklist
- Monday Net also followed the checklist pretty closely

→ Suggestions

- NCS should repeat WX reports to verify they were received correctly
- Reporting stations should be more exact on location to prevent confusion

→ A discussion followed on WX1NWS capabilities and what could be done to improve the communications link

→ ATV Update. The radar ATV lost the primary power amplifier. A backup amplifier was placed in line pending repair/replacement of the primary amplifier. The picture quality at EMA was good with the backup amplifier in line

➤ Duane Arnold is wishing to conduct Dosimeter Training. A date for this training will be announced once the details are worked out.

➤ Service Station list discussions

→ A copy of the working list was distributed

→ A recommendation was made to include those stations who could deliver fuel to a designated site – two possible organizations were mentioned

➤ KC0OX received a request for a list of active Cedar County Amateur Radio operators. Cedar County EMA is looking for Amateur Radio Operators to support their operation.

➤ The proposed MOU with Linn County EMA was discussed. The purpose of the MOU was to better define liability responsibilities between the Amateur Radio Community and Linn County EMA.

➤ A new program between the area Scouting organizations and the Cedar Rapids Kernels would be initiated at selected home games. During these games, Scouts would distribute materials on emergency preparedness to the fans attending the game.

➤ KF0VF indicated that Amateurs in Jones County are in the process of establishing HF, VHF, and UHF capabilities at the Anamosa Fire Station in support of the Jones County EMA. HF capabilities will initially include 80 and 40 meter operation with a look at possibly adding 160 meter capability at a later date.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

Submitted by Ron, KC0OX

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

One of the things most of us do during severe weather is to disconnect our outside antennas and move our operation to our hand held radio. For most of us, the repeater will produce a full quieting signal in the hand held radio with the short stubby antenna on it and we might make the assumption that the signal from the hand held would also be full quieting into the repeater.

Unfortunately, this is seldom the case. Even the reassuring squelch tail when we un-key the mike often provides a false sense of security. Many times, the signals received by and rebroadcast by the repeater are marginal or unreadable. Sometimes the signals will pump up and down, going from full quieting to totally noise depending a slight movement of the hand held radio. During normal day to day communications, this is a nuisance and the receiving station can simply ask for a repeat of the information. During a Net, especially if you are reporting a severe weather event or other priority information, this marginal signal can significantly delay getting the information into the system.

One of the best ways to help improve this situation, is to connect the hand held to an antenna with some gain or even a quarter wavelength whip antenna. There are several very simple designs that have been published in some of the Ham publications for making an antenna out of 300 ohm TV twin lead, for making a simple quarter wave ground plane and a number of ideas on using a mobile magnetic antenna inside.

One of the easiest solutions is to take a mobile magnetic mount antenna and set it in the middle of a pizza pan. The antenna provides some gain and the pizza pan provides an RF ground for the antenna to work against. If you use your hand held during the severe weather nets, you might consider one of these simple solutions to help improve the quality of your signal into the repeater. If you are interested in copies of some of the recent articles please contact me. I will be happy to give you the reference or a copy of the articles. All of the stations who perform the duties of Net Control will be grateful for your efforts.

I look forward to seeing you all at the May meeting!

73,WA6GFD

## FROM ERIC WATSON, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

The Marion Arts Festival 5k Run and Fun Walk is Saturday 19 May. Volunteers are still welcome. Get your feet wet with this low key event. We will meet for an early breakfast at the Happy Chef on Blairs Ferry and meet in Marion at 0715. The race will begin at 0800. The awards ceremony starts at 0900. Debrief to follow the race finish.

Sunday, 3 June is the Pigman Sprint held in and around Pleasant Creek State park and Palo, IA. Volunteers are needed to man stations on the bike and run course, the safety boat, the Linn County Sheriff's Department and Net Control. Split shifts are possible.

As of this writing the confirmed calendar of events is:

- May 19, Saturday, Marion 5K
- June 3, Sunday, Pigman Sprint
- June 23, Saturday, Dragon Boat Races
- June 23-24, Saturday and Sunday, Field Day
- August 19, Sunday, Pigman
- October 28, Sunday, Devil's Dash 5K & 15K cross country run **\*New Event\***

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,  
[k0ecw.ericwatson@gmail.com](mailto:k0ecw.ericwatson@gmail.com) 319-361-7951

## K-12 CORNER

On the last Friday in April Cedar Rapids' largest employer, Rockwell Collins, held their "Take Your Child to Work" event. 500 children took part in activities and events. Some children made graham cracker "circuit boards" with frosting as wiring. The Collins Amateur Radio club put on an outdoor ham radio demo that was seen by 90 students.

There will be some new starts next school year where hams might be able to help out. Several area schools are planning to offer the "Project Lead The Way" classes. The PLTW people are working to "...create dynamic partnerships with our nation's schools to prepare an increasing and more diverse

group of students to be successful in science, engineering, and engineering technology." Local teachers are trained to give their students hands-on experience with real projects in pre-engineering courses. In the Cedar Rapids area, the Cedar Rapids public middle schools and Linn-Mar middle schools will all be in this program next school year. Several of the Cedar Rapids middle schools have been doing this for up to two years now. Jefferson, Prairie, and Linn-Mar high schools will also offer these classes.

If a school near you is offering these classes, make a point of introducing yourself to one of the teachers and offer to visit their class sometime and show some of your equipment. Since the emphasis is on using engineering principles to solve problems, they might be very interested in any homebrew projects. There's more info on Project Lead the Way at [www.pltw.org](http://www.pltw.org).

A lot of us will be traveling over the next few months. On your travels, keep an eye out for ham radio. You might find it in some unusual places, like science museums.

And finally, don't forget that summer is a great time for a youngster to set a goal of studying for and passing a radio exam...

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](mailto:kc0nxn@arrl.net)

KC0NXN & KC0NXO

### **VE TEST SESSION PLANNED FOR MAY 11TH**

We have a (pre-Dayton) VE test session scheduled for Friday evening, May 11, 2007. The location is Zion Lutheran Church, 201 1st Ave. in Hiawatha. This is the same location as the last session, but hopefully the weather will be a bit nicer.

The session is advertised for 7:00 PM, but people usually start showing up by 6:30. I will plan to be there by 6:00 PM. Please drop me an email or phone call if you would like to work the session.

See you on the 11th.

73, Darrel, WA0KHH

### **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**

**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 [randykelleyrcl@qwest.net](mailto:randykelleyrcl@qwest.net)

**FOR SALE:** QST'S in ARRL binders, 1962 through 2005. Also includes 4 new binders and a number of other ARRL magazines; Ham Radio in binders, 1971 through 1990. Make an offer! Contact Jim Spencer at [w0sr@arrl.net](mailto:w0sr@arrl.net) or call 393-7353

**FOR SALE:** 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](mailto:sjhill@realitydiluted.com) or 329-6387

**WANTED:** Hammarlund HQ-110(A) with or w/o clock. Should be repairable and in reasonably good cosmetic condition. Also, the name of an individual or business that can replace speaker cones. Doug, KF0VF. 854-6312 or [kf0vf@yahoo.com](mailto:kf0vf@yahoo.com).

#### **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](mailto:kc0nxo@arrl.net)

All advertisements must be renewed monthly!

CVARC  
 Budget 2007  
 For All Accounts"

	BUDGET 06	ACTUAL	BUDGET 07
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dues	1200.00	940.00	940.00
Interest	459.83	459.83	600.00
MISC.DEPOSIT	360.00	226.00	300.00
Sales	50.00	80.00	85.00
Summerfest Income	3500.00	3416.72	3700.00
	-----		
Total Income	5569.83	5122.55	5625.00
	-----		
<b>Expense</b>			
Bandsperad	800.00	528.40	600.00
Bank Charges	15.00	2.79	5.00
Field Day	530.00	288.24	400.00
Hall Donation	220.00	220.00	220.00
INSURANCE	360.00	338.00	350.00
Membership Promotion	550.00	110.23	200.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	286.25	200.00
Public Service Activity	100.00		100.00
Repeater	?		0.00
Social	450.00	613.46	650.00
Special Events	140.00	46.90	100.00
Station Emergency Perp	200.00	160.93	200.00
Summerfest Expense	2000.00	2034.36	2400.00
Po Box Stamps		200.00	200.00
Training	100.00		
	-----		
Total Expense	5565.00	4829.56	5625.00
Difference	4.83	292.99	0.00

**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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

Bandspread: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Comm. Act. Director: \_\_\_\_\_