

W0GQ

W0WSV



Since 1949

BANDSPREAD



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

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, November 8th, 2007

7:30 p.m.

ABCs of DSP for SDR

by Paul Wagner

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 December issue is November 29th, 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

NOVEMBER CVARC MEETING PREVIEW

The November 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, November 8th.

The evening's program is on the ABCs of DSP for SDR by Paul Wagner. If this is alphabet soup to you, come learn about digital signal processing for software defined radios. If you already work with software defined radios, come and learn some more. See you at the meeting!

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.

A NOTE REGARDING HELP GIVEN

Thank you to the ones that donated to our son's cancer fund. It is deeply appreciated.

As most of you know John, KB0DNX, found out he had cancer last April. They did surgery right away only to find out it had spread through most of the organs. He had three months of Chemo and more surgery after the Chemo. First surgery was done in Dubuque, and the second surgery was done in Indianapolis. John has a daughter in college and two young daughters (Nicole, age 8 and Brooklyn, age 4) still at home.

Because John has been off work since last April it has been a challenge. Both John and his wife Carla are hard workers, but with trying to keep up normal home bills and now all the medical bills, this donation is going to help.

We also would like to add the happy news that the doctors say they got the cancer. Now John needs to get his strength and system built back up so he can get back to work. They are hoping he can get back to

work the first of the year. Thanks so much. Vern, KB0SK, and Daisy, KF0EC.

OCTOBER 2007 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The October 2007 Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Director's meeting was held October 11, 2007 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President WA6GFD. Others in attendance were; K0AL, AA0II, N0XZL, NA0IA, K0ECW, WT0D, WA0KHH, KC0PON and KC0OX.

A motion made by WT0D and seconded by KC0OX approving the September 2007 Board Meeting minutes as published in the August Bandspread with the notation that K0ECW's call was incorrectly given as "KC0ECW" was carried by voice vote.

KC0PON reported that the checking account balance is \$3,829.02.

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.

K0AL noted that letters offering a free one year membership were sent to area persons qualifying for their FIRST amateur license at the Summerfest VE session.

K0AL noted that the Bandspread "boilerplate" incorrectly lists K0CA as Midwest Division Director, he is the Vice Director, Bruce Frahm is the Director being appointed to fill the unexpired portion of W0EJ's term.

K0ECW had a revised list of persons that will be submitted for pre-approval for admission clearance to the Linn County Sheriff's office.

K0ECW noted coming Public Service events as; Devil's Dash to be held at Usher's Ferry Village on 10/28 and the Witch Watch on 10/31.

WA6GFD reported that St. Luke's Hospital is interested in relocating our 2 meter antenna to improve their coverage.

WA6GFD noted that the following officers' terms will expire: President, Vice President, Secretary, Emergency Preparedness Director and Information Director. A Nominating Committee has to be announced at the November meeting per our by-laws.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by NA0IA

and seconded by K0ECW.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Submitted by K0AL, Secretary

OCTOBER 2007 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The October 2007 general membership meeting was held Thursday, October 11, 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 38 members and guests present.

On a motion by N0XZL and seconded by N0XNK the minutes of the September meeting as printed in the October Bandspread were approved by voice vote with one correction noted, that being to correct the call sign of K0ECW which was incorrectly given as "KC0ECW."

KC0OX spoke to the coming Halloween event known as "Witch Watch." He requested those who intend to volunteer for this event contact him via e-mail. He requested two persons per vehicle and to report to the Linn County Sheriff's office at 5:30 PM.

KC0OX also noted that a "Diesel Database" had been placed on the ARES web page listing fuel suppliers who can provide diesel, gasoline and propane under emergency conditions.

KC0PON reported a current checking account balance of \$3,829.07.

K0ECW requested volunteers for a 5 and 15 K run titled "Devil's Dash" to be held Sunday, October 28 at Usher's Ferry. He requested volunteers to report at 12:30 PM with the event scheduled to start at 1:00 PM.

NA0IA reported that licensing classes will be planned for late winter. The exact start dates will be coordinated with the storm spotter training which is usually offered in February.

WA0KHH reported on area VE possibilities. He also noted that Vinton now holds VE sessions on the 4th Thursday of the month, but that November will be an exception due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. He also noted there will NOT be a VE session at the November 4 Davenport hamfest.

WA6GFD reported that an effort was underway to relocate the antenna at St. Lukes Hospital to improve the coverage and that there may be incidental expenses associated with that move.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM on a motion by NA0IA and seconded by N0XNK.

After the social break, NA0IA held door prize drawings, The ARRL publication "Emergency Communications" was won by N0UTP, 2 tickets to the Big Bend hamfest in Illinois were won by WB0LJK and hats donated by W0LBK were won by WT0D, K0ECW, KC0PON and W0GWK.

A very interesting program was given by Charlie Snodgrass, KC0CD on his experiences while flying in and out of Antarctica during his days as a US Naval aviator. Beyond informative, Charlie made it entertaining as well. Seems like crop dusting would be tame compared to flying down there!

Submitted by K0AL, Secretary

ARES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 6 SEPTEMBER 2007

Attending: N0GUD (recording), KC0HF, WA6GFD, KF0VF, K0ECW, KC0OX, KC0PON

Past Events

- Weather nets
 - We had a few. They seemed to go well. One was during our regular Sunday net. The net was held as normal, with weather traffic passed as necessary.
- Alzheimer's and MS walks – both went well.
- DAEC drill
 - Overall, went well with eight check-ins.
 - Calls were made every half hour per requirements.
 - Some discussion of the simulated events followed.
- Buchanan County drill on 19 September
 - Were not able to hit their repeater from St Luke's comm center.
 - They were able to hit CVARC and a number of stations on simplex.
 - From STL's roof, we were able to hit their repeater with a handheld.

Upcoming Events

- Witch Watch
 - ◆ We have a go for the event.
 - ◆ KC0OX will collect volunteers.
 - ◆ Event should be run as it has in the past, per LCSO comment.
- Devil's Dash Run is 28 October.

New Items

- Progress on Jones County stations at the Anamosa fire station

- ◆ Jones ARC has installed a station there. (It is sometimes referred to as the EOC, as that is the ultimate goal.)
- ◆ There are two transceivers, 160m through 440 MHz.
- ◆ Antennas are not all up yet, but everything is ready for installation.
- ◆ HF antenna will be 160m inverted V with a remote antenna tuner.
- Jones County comm trailer
 - ◆ In the planning stages. Jones ARC will be part of it.
- Antenna at St Luke's
 - ◆ WA6GFD says they have located the antenna on the 7th floor. Cable is likely long enough to reach radio room.
 - ◆ They are working to get back on the roof to do the work.
 - ◆ Goal/plan is to move the antenna to the top of the hospital.
 - ◆ Will try to measure the loss in the cable and the total length of cable.
 - ◆ St Luke's is willing to allow us to install everything. However, we will work with Graybill (the usual contractor) to make sure everyone is aware of everyone else's equipment.
- Non-governmental organization information
 - ◆ KC0OX reports that there are no direct requirements on NGOs, so we looked at the requirements for governmental organizations that use NGOs. There is a tier 1 requirement to promote and encourage NIMS training by NGOs.
 - ◆ There is also a tier 1 requirement to include multiple organizations in their jurisdiction in exercises.
 - ◆ There is a tier 2 requirement (may become tier 1 in future) to establish mutual aid agreements with other organizations, including NGOs.
- SET
 - ◆ We should submit forms for DAEC drill and/or Witch Watch.
 - ◆ We will not be running a specific SET in October.
 - ◆ One suggestion is that we can originate some traffic during a DAEC drill as a sort of sub-drill. We can use standard radiogram formats for practice.
- K0ECW says that there may be a 150-mile (75 each day) bike ride to/from Grinnell. We should

start thinking about how we would handle such an event.

- Diesel database is now on the web site. We need to solicit responses from hams to update the database from local knowledge.

Submitted by Ron, KC0OX

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Winter will soon be on us and with it will come the days where travel will become more hazardous. The cooler weather will also start to cause those weak batteries to fail and the worst time possible often leaving the driver and passengers of the vehicle stranded. In addition, the approaching holiday season, will also mean more folks will be traveling through our area as folks head home for the holidays. The factors create a situation where requests for assistance on local repeater and simplex frequencies will become much more frequent. I would like to ask all Amateurs to begin monitoring the local published repeaters and simplex frequencies to be able to provide information and assistance to those in need of information and assistance. It is also a good time remind us all to leave a little extra break between transmissions, particularly during the morning and evening commutes, to allow those in need of assistance or visitors to break into the conversation.

Please remember that we are entering into the yearly election process and the nominating committee is being formed to look for candidates to fill the Board of Director vacancies that will occur when the current terms run out. If you would like to be on the committee or if you are interested in holding a office in the club, please let a member of the Board know. The Nominating Committee will be named at the next club meeting.

If you missed the last couple of meetings, you have missed a couple a very good presentations on subjects, while not specifically Ham radio related, were very interesting and informative. I want to thank Jason for his work in scheduling these presentations. Please let us know if there are presentations you would like to see presented in the future.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the November meeting.

73, WAGGFD, Steve

FROM ERIC WATSON, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

The Devil's Dash 5k and 15k run was held Sunday 28 October at Usher's Ferry Historic Village and Seminole Valley Park. This was the first year for the event and even though I didn't think I'd have enough support it turned out OK. I would like to thank the hams who participated: N0KVV, KC0NXN, N0UUS, KC0WUZ, WB0LJK, KC0PON, WA6GFD, WA0ZZG, KD0HF, N0XZL, KC0VJI, K0ECW, KC0VAD, AB0DX and WA0MNA. Special thanks to AB0DX and WA0MNA for driving up from Washington County to participate.

We had a nice event, the weather was great and there were no problems. N0KVV reported that there was a commercial radio station broadcasting from the Start/Finish line and that CVARC was mentioned several times. Hams that participated in the Devil's Dash are invited to send me their thoughts and comment via email at k0ecw.ericwatson@gmail.com.



Amateur Radio Volunteers at the Devil's Dash.

The Devil's Dash was our last event before winter. This year as Communications Activities Director has been a very rewarding learning experience for me. Our service events calendar has expanded dramatically, adding the MS Bike Ride, the MS Walk, the Devil's Dash and the Linn County Fair Parade to our regular events like the Pigman Triathlons, the Dragon Boat Races, the Alzheimer's Walk and of course Field Day. I've already have dates for the Pigman Triathlons and the Alzheimer's Walk. I anticipate doing all the events from this year, next year. The MS Bike Ride may even go out to Grinnell and back next year.

One of my goals for my term on the Board is to increase the participation in public service events by new hams. Public service events are a great way to learn and practice communications procedures and

skills and pass knowledge along to the next generation.

Please don't let not having equipment keep you from volunteering, loaner radios and antennas are available during events. This next year will be another busy one that will require a lot of help from everyone. Thanks for a fun year, I'm looking forward to a challenging 2008.

The confirmed Events Calendar for 2008 is:

- Saturday 17 May: Marion Arts Festival 5k Run/Walk
- Sunday 1 June: Pigman Sprint Triathlon
- Saturday and Sunday 28, 29 June: Field Day
- Sunday 17 August: Pigman Long course Triathlon
- Saturday 20 September: Alzheimer's Walk

Watch the Bandspread for more events.

Please contact me at k0ecw.ericwatson@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Eric Watson, K0ECW, k0ecw.ericwatson@gmail.com
319-361-7951



Costumed runners at the Devil's Dash

K-12 CORNER

There's been discussion about the practice of keeping "go bags" for emergency communications and preparedness, but very little has been written about modifying the "go bag" concept for children and teens.

Adult go bag lists often include tools, knives, medications, food, water, money, and radios. ***We strongly recommend against go bags with items that might violate school rules.*** Instead, students need

go bags that will help them communicate with others, and wait until contact is made.

Go bags can vary by season and location, of course, and should be checked at least once a quarter, to make sure that they have supplies and information are current.

The following items in a student go bag will make it easier for students to communicate and wait during unexpected events:

- A laminated list of contacts, with addresses, phone numbers, and call signs. It may or may not contain directions about who should be contacted first.
- A note pad and pen or pencil, with which to write down information, and track contacts.
- Good socks, suitable for walking a distance, or changing.
- A card game or small "busy book" to help pass time.
- A couple of wrapped snacks – granola bars, goldfish, etc.
- Emergency asthma and allergy medications, if needed, with photocopies of the prescriptions. (Schools usually allow children to have asthma inhalers and epi-pens with them at all times, but not other medications.)

For younger children, these can fit into a belt pouch or fanny pack that's kept either in their school backpack or in their travel bag.

Older children and teens can pick out a lightweight go bag that can also act as a purse or book bag, or be kept in their book bag.

Go bags for older children and teens may also include a small flashlight, money for phone calls or a phone card, and a pocket first-aid kit. If your student is a Ham, he or she may even have a handheld in his or her go bag.

The most important items of course, are not in the go bag. They are the procedures that the student knows for contacting people on their list.

Have your student listen to the local net a few times. Let them hear the pattern of check-ins and messages. If there is a severe weather net, have them listen in as well, so that they become aware that the same patterns are followed.

You can help the students in your life work out procedures that will work for their contacts. Then

practice those procedures, so that they are good at taking and passing on messages, whether in person, on the phone, or as an amateur. Just as with ARES nets, constant practice does improve communication skills. The practices of good communication and preparedness for unexpected events will help any student.

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 kc0nxn@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 SGC 500 watt Amplifier. Icom IC-2KL 500 watt amplifier with matching Icom AT-500 watt automatic antenna tuner. Antenna mounting kit to fit on rear ladder of an RV. This mounts antennas in 3 locations.. Arlo Meyer, W0L BK, 393-7461

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: _____