

W0GQ

W0WSV



Since 1949

BANDSPREAD



Associated with Linn County Emergency Management Agency and the ARRL

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, April 10th, 2008

7:30 PM

QRO - QRM the Story of an International Shortwave Site, by Guy J. West, N0MMA

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 2008 issue is April 24th, 2008

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 10th.

The program, presented by Guy J. West, N0MMA, QRO - QRM the Story of an International Shortwave Site. Far East Broadcasting Company's Bocaue, Philippines, international transmission site is comprised of 5 TCI directional antenna arrays, kilometers of high power balanced line, automated antenna switching and automated signal and transmitter monitoring to keep the signals of its four 100 KW continental transmitters beaming to listeners in China, Southeast Asia, and Indonesia. This site was reconstructed from the WWII surplus equipment used to build it in 1950 to its current modern configuration between 1998 and 2005. Enjoy a window into the design process, engineering decisions, and technology used to be truly QRO and to allow the generation of serious QRM on the 40M band all over the world.

Mr. West is the Technical Services Director of the Far East Broadcasting Company.

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 2007 are in the 2007 subdirectory, and 2008 issues are in the 2008 subdirectory.

If you would like to get an e-mail notice of when the latest Bandspread is on the Website, please email Laura, KCONXO 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 2008 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The March 2008 Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Director's meeting was held 13 March 2008 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM by President WA6GFD. Others in attendance were: K0AL, N0XZL, NA0IA, K0ECW, WT0D, KC0PON, WA0KHH and W0MRZ.

A motion made by WT0D and seconded by K0ECW approving the February 2008 Board Meeting minutes as published in the March Bandspread was carried by voice vote.

WA6GFD introduced Michael Zomlefer, W0MRZ, to the Board and indicated that Michael had volunteered to serve as the Club Secretary. With the approval of the Board of Directors, WA6GFD appointed W0MRZ to serve the remaining term of Secretary.

N0XZL indicated that volunteers were needed to assist operating the food concession at the upcoming Hamfest.

KC0PON reported the balance in the checking account at \$3,676.21

WA0KHH discussed preparations for the upcoming 10 May 2008 Exam Session. Reservations needed to be made to use the Rockwell Main Plant cafeteria as the exam venue. NA0IA indicated he would facilitate making those reservations.

AA0II indicated he would review past Bandspreads to generate ideas for possible future speakers and presentations at club meetings.

A review and general discussion was conducted concerning the overall proposed 2008 club budget.

NA0IA discussed the status of ongoing classes as well as the strategy for future club mailing and marketing efforts, which would include targeting all ham clubs within a 110 mile radius as well as known licensed hams in a nine county area.

A general discussion was held to review possible locations for Field Day, including Pleasant Creek State Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM

Submitted by W0MRZ, Secretary

MARCH 2008 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The March 2008 general membership meeting was held Thursday, 13 March 2008 in the Kenwood United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order at 7:42 PM by President WA6GFD. All attendees and guests introduced themselves with 46 members and guests present.

On a motion by N0KVV and seconded by NA0IA the minutes of the February meeting as printed in the March Bandspread were approved by voice vote without correction.

KC0PON reported a current checking account balance of \$3,576.21.

WA6GFD presented certificates acknowledging the good efforts of past club efforts to: Daisy Stark,

KF0EC, in honor for the work she did as the previous club treasurer as well as for her efforts as the chairperson for the food concession at the annual Sumerfest, and to Bill Caldwell, N0LNO, in honor for his work as the previous program director and for his numerous past services, including time as club president. They received a much deserved round of applause from the membership.



Daisy, KF0EC. Photo courtesy of Dave, WA0ZZG.



Bill, N0LNO and Steve, WA6GFD. Photo courtesy of Dave, WA0ZZG.

The following upcoming Club sponsored and supported activities were outlined by WA6GFD:

- Multiple Sclerosis Walk at Washington High School on April 19th @ 09:30 (volunteers needed)
- Field Day venue might include Pleasant Creek State Park; the Park Manager has been contacted to discuss logistics requirements for an event to be held there
- A source for magnetic signs was still being researched
- The upcoming Marion Arts Festival 5K event will be held on 17 May 2008

N0XZL gave a report on the marketing and mailing strategy for Hamfest this year. All previous attendees will be receiving Hamfest announcements. In addition, ham clubs within a 110 mile radius of Cedar Rapids will also be notified as will all hams in the area's surrounding nine counties. This year's mailing will build on the success of previous Hamfest marketing efforts and existing mailing lists.

Program Director AA0II announced that the April 10th meeting would have the following presentation: "QRO - QRM the Story of an International Shortwave Site", by N0MMA - N0MMA/DU1 Guy J. West.

VE Manager WA0KHH indicated that exams would be administered in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, 10 May 2008 and that efforts were being taken to reserve the Rockwell Collins Main Plant Cafeteria for the examination venue. WA0KHH also discussed the upcoming new Extra Class Examination question pool which will take effect on 1 July of this year.

KC0NXN emphasized that 27 March 2008 would be the 'hard' deadline for any submissions to be included in the next edition of the Bandsread.

President WA6GFD led a discussion on the proposed 2008 budget, highlighting both fixed and anticipated line items in the budget. Motion to approve the budget was made by WA0KHH, seconded by W0OZZ and approved unanimously by voice vote.

WA6GFD also called for participation in the 160m statewide emergency net effort, scheduled for Sundays at 0900 CST on 1970 kHz.

The business portion was concluded at 8:35 PM and adjourned per motion.

After the social break, multiple door prize drawings were held with the following prizes and recipients: ARRL Antenna Handbook—WA0FBX; World Radio 4 year Subscription—W0LBK, N0VNV, W0WLL, KC00NY; Amateur Radio Theme Hats—KC0WUZ, K0FLY, KC0YGW, W0SHOAC0IZ

The program for the night was a slide presentation by Rod Blocksome, K0DAS on "Adventures with HF in China" which depicted his experiences in that country with the installation and development of commercial HF systems for the marine and aeronautical environments.

Meeting concluded at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by Michael, W0MRZ, Secretary

ARES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 2008

Attending on 6 March 2008: KC0PON, KF0VF, K0ECW, WA6GFD, KD0HF, Kelly, KD0CGN (Craig)

- Finalize 160m frequency and net recommendation
 - WB0WIV suggests a frequency between 1910 and 1920 kHz.
 - We will try a number of frequencies and see what happens. WA6GFD and KD0HF have had some success with their tests.
 - Suggests weekly tests for participation and propagation.
 - WA6GFD tried frequencies around 1980 kHz. Very successful.
 - We suggest Sundays at 2100 for this net. The net could be weekly. There was some discussion of doing this just after or before the monthly EOC net on 75m.
 - An 80 meter dipole with a tuner will work on these frequencies.
- Collect spotter locations for creek and major river flooding
 - N0GUD will contact the Scouts to see if the Eagle project to install flood sticks is complete.
 - Indian Creek is important. Thomas Park, 29th Street, and Rosedale Road are prime spotting locations. We need to gather a few more.
 - We need a list of “first locations” to watch, then a list of secondary locations.
 - In some counties, the sheriff or EMA tells the hams where to monitor. We might consider talking to our own organizations about this.
 - KC0CGN suggests the creek in Palo near the Cedar River.
- Diesel Database – will we support/include adjacent counties?
 - Jones County ARC is willing to gather and provide information on Jones County locations.
 - Data should be sent to WA6GFD.
- Mercy Medical antenna project
 - WA6GFD met with Mercy on 25 Feb with their emergency coordinator. They are very interested in getting the antenna relocated.
 - They have surveyed for a good location. On the north side, there is a tower with a single antenna, and some other towers. We and they need to coordinate with the various system owners. Their contractor suggests the above-mentioned tower. It's about 10 stories up.
- There was some discussion of putting the station with their EOC. The problem is that it's an open room, and there would be a lot of QRM. They found us a cubicle room behind their switchboard, across the hall from the EOC. There will be a phone to call into the EOC. The cable chase comes out near that room as well.
- The estimate for the coax run is about 250 feet. WA6GFD has run some comparisons for our analysis. 440 showed a lot of attenuation, 2m was a bit better. The initial suggestion is the LMR-400 coax, which is a reasonable 88 cents per foot.
- Mercy will buy the cable, but will hold off until we check with some of our sources. We may be able to get it for less.
- CVARC may be willing to fund some of this.
- We'll need a polyphaser or an arrestor in the line.
- The pipe chase will be checked for congestion. There is a junction that may be a problem.
- Mercy asked for a radio suggestion. For now, we'll have someone with a go-kit. We recommend a dual band radio with CTCSS capability. Preference is for dual-receive.
- Mercy mentioned badging/identification. A badge will be required to get into the EOC area. We suggested looking into having a universal badge between the two hospitals.
- We will aim for being ready by storm season.
- Dual frequency nets
 - Per last month, we are looking to having two frequencies for event nets.
 - Recommendation is that emergency traffic moves to the backup frequency. There will be a NCS monitoring that frequency at all times. This is suggested because fewer stations will have to move, and there is less coordination.
 - This is patterned after local PD/FD practices.
 - The second net control should not also be the first net control.

- The two frequencies should be selected in advance, but do not need to be the recommended ARES frequencies.
- K0ECW reports that the list of hams submitted to Linn County Sheriff has been approved. The next CVARC event is 19 April, the Multiple Sclerosis walk. Starts and ends at Washington high school. Meet at 0930.
- KD0HF talked to Larry Scott about the radar. It works as well as it did last year, for what that is worth.

Submitted by Scott, N0GUD.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I am pleased to announce to those who were not at the March meeting that Michael Zomlefer, W0MRZ, volunteered for and was appointed to fill the office of Secretary. I look forward to working with Michael and would like to welcome him to the Board of Directors.

As we progress into April, we begin to enter the severe weather season. This season could turn out to be an interesting season as we are in a "La Niña" condition. This typically means the Midwest could experience a larger number of tornadoes of greater intensity than during other years. The time is now to check out your antennas, batteries, and procedures for operating on the SKYWARN/Severe Weather Nets. A pre-season test of the radar ATV system will be announced soon.

Also want to remind those of you with 160 meter capability of the 160 meter net that is being run on Sunday evenings at 9 PM locally. This net is being run to test the feasibility of using a 160 meter frequency to augment 80 and 40 meter emergency frequencies. Many stations checking into this net are using short verticals, 80/40 meter dipoles and other antenna configurations and an antenna tuner to get on the frequency. We invite to join us and help with the test.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on 10 April.

73, WA6GFD, Steve

FROM ERIC WATSON, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

The Multiple Sclerosis Walk is Saturday 19 April at 09:30 at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids. ***PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE**** We will meet at 0930 at the High School. The event starts

at 1000 and should finish around 1200. The course starts at the High Schools, meanders through Bruce more and the surrounding neighborhood and finishes at the High School. Lunch was provided for walkers and volunteers last year and probably will be again this year. Volunteers are still needed for this event, especially a second ham to operate with me at the net control station. Talk-in for the walk will be on the 146.745 repeater. We will use the simplex frequency of 146.505 as our primary with 146.46 as our backup. If you have questions or would like to volunteer for this event please contact me via email at k0ecw.ericwatson@gmail.com or by phone at 319-361-7951. Be sure to include your t-shirt size when volunteering.

All hams, regardless of experience, club affiliation, or lack of equipment are invited to participate in public service events. Come practice your radio skills in a low-key environment.

As of this writing the Events Calendar for 2008 is:

- Saturday 19 April: Multiple Sclerosis Walk
- Saturday 17 May: Marion Arts Festival 5k Run/Walk
- Sunday 1 June: Pigman Sprint Triathlon
- Saturday 28 June: Dragon Boat Races
- Saturday and Sunday 28, 29 June: Field Day
- Saturday 5 July: Linn County Fair Parade
- Sunday 17 August: Pigman Long course Triathlon
- Saturday and Sunday 23, 24 August: Multiple Sclerosis Cycle for the Cure. Overnight stop in Marshalltown.
- Saturday 20 September: Alzheimer's Walk
- Sunday 26 October: Devil's Dash 5k/15k Run/Walk

Please check out the web calendar for the latest information about an event:

<http://my.calendars.net/iowad6w>

VE TEST SESSION MAY 10, 2008

The Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an amateur radio license testing session to be held on Saturday, May 10, 2008 at Rockwell Collins Main Plant, 835 35th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA. Please use the cafeteria "tunnel" entrance. Registration will open at 8:30 AM, with testing to begin at 9:00 AM. All test elements will be offered, and walk-in applicants are welcome.

Applicants must bring a photo ID, and either their SSN or FRN.

FRNs can be obtained at: <http://www.fcc.gov>. Allow

two weeks for the FRN to be processed before the exam date. If applicants already have an amateur license, they must bring the original, and one photocopy. (The wallet size and the frame size are equally valid.) The \$14.00 exam fee will cover one try at each element.

Exam sessions are also offered on the fourth Thursdays of April and May in Vinton.

For additional information please contact Darrel Peterson at 319-393-8667 or email to wa0khh@arrl.net.

K-12 CORNER

In Iowa City on 8 March 2008 nearly two dozen Boy Scouts took the Radio merit badge class as part of the Merit Badge University held at the University of Iowa. This is an annual event sponsored by the Alpha Phi Omega's Omicron chapter. Nearly a thousand Boy Scouts signed up for one of twenty merit badge classes. For many of the classes, including the Radio merit badge, all of the requirements can be met in a just one day.

All of the scouts in the class got on the air, talking to hams on the Iowa City repeater, WØJV/R. The class included one Technician, and one scout who hoped to get his ticket and apply for his grandfather's callsign. The Radio merit badge has a long history with the Boy Scouts -- the badge was established in 1923.

The Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair (EISEF) was held at Lindale Mall in Cedar Rapids on 15 March 2008. For the fifth year in a row, the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club and the Collins Amateur Radio Club jointly sponsored a special award at the EISEF for the use of radio or radio-electronics in a student exhibit.

For this award the judges were looking for one exhibit in the junior division and one exhibit in the senior division. We ended up making three awards, since there was a tie in the junior division.

Matthew Boddicker, from the UNI Upward Bound Math & Science in Waterloo, "No Strings Attached! II" This young man, in the Senior Physical division, improved his Tesla coil to demonstrate the potential to transmit power without wires. He received the ARRL Handbook (and advice from several of the judges about RF safety and harmful interference). Boddicker won the award last year for his earlier version of this project. He plans to take Technician and General exams later this year.

Danny Davies, from Harding Middle School in Cedar Rapids, "Bubble Power." He had won the award last year in the Junior Biological division. This year's project, in the Junior Physical division, was to see if magnetic fields affected sonoluminescence. He received the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (Tech exam manual).

Rachel Rezac, from Harding Middle School in Cedar Rapids, "The Shocking Truth about What's in Your Water." She built a circuit to measure the conductivity of water with various additives. She received the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (Tech exam manual).

In addition to the books, each winner received a \$20 gift certificate to Radio Shack and the current CVARC brochure "You can be a Ham."

The judges for this year's award were Larry Black, WA0FBH, Bill Caldwell, N0LNO, Dave Maley, WA0ZZG and Mike Miller, KC0NXN.

Thanks again to the judges and both clubs for their continued support.

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

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: _____