

W0GQ

W0WSV



Since 1949

## BANDSPREAD



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

## CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

7:30 PM

Planning for Hamfest

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 August 2008 issue is July 31, 2008**

# **BANDSPREAD**

*The Voice of the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club*

## **Bandspread Staff**

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## **Club Appointments**

Station Trustee	Al Groff, KØVM	køvm@arrl.net	393-8134
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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

## JULY CVARC MEETING PREVIEW

The July 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, July 10th.

The program will involve planning for the annual Summfest Hamfest. Summerfest is CVARC's opportunity to meet with Hams from all over the Midwest, to swap gear, to learn what's up at the national level, and to help others become Hams through VE testing.

Come to the meeting and help plan – prior planning is the best preparation.

### 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, 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).

### JUNE 2008 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

### JUNE 2008 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

Due to unprecedented flooding of the Cedar on Thursday June 12, 2008, the CVARC board and membership did not meet.

### ARES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 2008

Minutes for 5 June 2008 ARES planning committee. Attending: N0GUD, KC0OX, N0UUS, KC0RFN, KD0HF, K0ECW, WA6GFD, KC0PON, KF0VF, KB0KW

- Parkersburg tornado
  - Brief discussion of N0GUD's experience with it.
  - Key operators were out of town for the holiday weekend.
  - Most communications there were handled on public service frequencies – no amateur radio support was requested.
  - N0UUS reported that they had CERT training there in 2005. This situation is what

CERT was meant to cover. Support seemed to work as well as expected. The idea is that neighboring counties need to help when a county is devastated by disaster.

- WA6GFD reported that northeast Iowa paged out a day early that there would be bad weather. But nobody seemed active in the counties to the east of the tornado, and no warning came from the Parkersburg area. This could be improved.
- There are drills for statewide communication every year, but none of that happened during the disaster. State communications were not live (that we know of), requests were not made. We should talk to our state leadership to find out how to improve this.
- We need to push the 250.3 Hz tone a little more so that we get more stations active on the late night/early morning nets. This seems lacking (see weather nets below).
- Generators were requested. Linn had some, but not in the right size (up to 50kW).
- Other weather nets during the past month
  - Very busy the past couple of weeks.
  - One event took out power at Rockwell, so the radar operator (N0GUD) was incommunicado. This caused concern for his safety. He was able to call in by cell phone to update everyone, but this might not be possible in all conditions.
  - There is an effort to put a UPS on the 2m rig so that communications can be maintained.
  - We've had some trouble raising neighboring counties during our nets.
  - We have resources in Linn County that are underutilized. We can work to improve this. This can be handled at the district level (coordinating counties).
  - KC0RFN reports that he may be able to use Minotaur pagers as an alert system.
  - Our niche is communications – use this to give warning to neighboring counties.
- KF0VF reports that Jerry Pasker, KB0QCL, has volunteered to be Emergency Coordinator for Jones County. KC0OX and NA0R will take this under consideration. Note that EC is an appointed position of the ARRL, as done through the office of the SEC.
- “RAGBRAI” exercise 12 June
  - KD0HF and N0GUD volunteered to staff EOC for the drill.
  - Not sure of what the local scenario will be.

KC0OX is organizing with other counties for a joint communications exercise. Hope to have details ironed out over the weekend.

- Two things to develop:
  - Ability to formally define the inter-county communications. If communications are damaged, ham gear may also be down (e. g., there is a problem at the EOC). We need to set up a plan for working around such problems.
  - Formalizing message forms from public service agencies. How do we get NTS forms accepted, or how do we translate from NTS to a served agency? We may need to talk to agencies about how they might become more common.
- ICS 213 is a general message form intended for use within an EOC, but there are some shortcomings and differing versions of the form. Amateur Radio needs to define what needs to be added to transport the message through one or more radio links.
- K0ECW and KC0PON were able to point to examples and websites.
- WA6GFD has samples of the message forms used between FEMA and the military services.
- KC0OX reported on which counties have agreed to participate to date. WA6GFD asked if the hospital amateur stations will be up. We're not sure about that yet.
- N0UUS suggests that the radios at EOC (well, all radios) be programmed with repeater frequencies ON SIMPLEX. Some discussion followed on this idea. Some radios allow the offset to be set with a single button, but others require some programming.
- Short discussion of DAEC drill attended by KC0OX
  - Not much amateur participation, which is normal for the spring drills.
  - We could work on tying the communication center into the EOC in general as a situational awareness improvement.
  - We would like to see if we can patch into the monitor system there (radar picture, etc). Adding more monitors to the EOC would be very useful.
- Upgrades at the EOC
  - Interwarn and Stormlab software installation progress
- KC0OX has those installed after some licensing issues. (Done just before this week's storms.)
- Improvements to TM-700 headset audio wiring and recording capabilities
  - Looked at audio system – will discuss off-line. Cannot find the original power supply for the speakers that we used originally. KD0HF says that they can run off the power supply for the radios.
- ATV improvements
  - We'll have a new ATV receiver soon. We'll try it when it gets in. It's crystal-controlled rather than variable. Has a channel 3 output.
  - Collins club is on tap to support us. Suggestion is to perhaps replace the transmitter first.
  - We have feelers out for a 250W UHF constant-duty PA. This will be expensive, but worth it.
  - We will be looking at the antenna again, as we are not sure of the condition.
  - KF0VF asked if the switch to digital will result in analog equipment shortages in a few years. Some discussion followed. Gist of it is that there is no immediate problem, as cable-ready TVs should still work.
  - N0UUS reminded us that we need to be careful to not add more noise to the communication center. It's very active during a live event, and they cannot afford any more interference. Headsets may not be a good option, as that prevents everyone else from hearing what you are hearing. It's hard to balance the need to know what is going on versus focusing on your primary communication channel. WA6GFD had some suggestions, including having two operators at the EOC. Much discussion followed. We'll bring this up again next month.
- Possible Interfacing of the monitors in the Comm room to the EOC projectors
- Independence Day net on Mays Island
  - We have confirmed that we will be in the command post.
  - Will be on 146.505.
  - Starts no later than 1900h local.
- Airport Drill

- N0GUD gave a report on the test. Results were encouraging.
  - Desense is a problem with some of the outlying repeater signals.
  - Were able to work only with Mercy. St Luke's was not available for the drill. The hospitals are close enough together that the results should apply to both, barring problems with the equipment.
  - We may want to consider Mercy as one of our alternate net control locations.
  - WA6GFD has sent in information to Mercy about building a cabinet for the equipment.
  - More to follow from Mercy on badging for access to the station. The concern is that we would like it to be a universal badge – one ID would be useful.
- KF0VF reports that he was unable to check with Jones County about their participation in the 12 June drill. KC0OX asked him to check with some people there directly (outside of the Jones club meeting).
  - WA6GFD added that he'd like to get into a serious discussion with EMA about moving some of the antennas to reduce the intermodulation and desense in the EOC. It's summer, and now is the time to do the antenna work.
  - K0ECW reported on events
    - 21 June is Dragonboats at Pleasant Creek
    - 28-29 June is Field Day at Regis
- Submitted by N0GUD

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Who would have ever imagined the month of June would turn out as it did? Starting with the abnormal number of Storm Watch events, to the Flood Watch and communications support to local agencies, the amateur community has been kept very busy. I want to thank all of you who volunteered your time and services in support of the flood-related activities and especially to those of you who continue to help our friends and neighbors as they work to begin the long road to recovery. While our activity level may have decreased, there are others who continue to struggle to recover from this historic event. Please keep them in your thoughts.

Due to the flood-related activities there were no board of directors or general membership meetings conducted in June. Items that would have been covered in these meetings will be covered in the next board and general membership meetings.

This last weekend, the club was able to establish a station and participate in the ARRL's Annual Field Day Event. While the scope of the operation was scaled down from previous years, I think it was a very successful event. We drew many visitors, including several newly licensed folks and were able to get them on the air with the GOTA station. In addition, some folks were afforded the opportunity to operate for the first time in an event of this nature. I hope this event will spark an even greater interest and that we will see this folks coming out for other communications events and activities. I want to thank everyone who came out to support set up and tear down as well as those who dropped by to operate the stations as well.

Thanks again to everyone who participated and contributed to all of the activities during the month of June. Look forward to seeing you all at the July Club meeting.

73, WA6GFD, Steve

### FROM ERIC WATSON, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Field Day was the weekend of June 28, 29 at Regis Middle School in Cedar Rapids. Thanks to all those that helped with setup and tear down as well as those who operated. We had our usual phone and CW stations as well as a GOTA station. I will have contact and point totals for the August Bandsread.

The Dragon Boat Races scheduled for 21 June have been rescheduled for 9 August. Volunteers are needed for this event. The event runs from 0800 to 1700 at Pleasant Creek State Park north of Palo. AM and PM split shifts are available. Four hams are required for each shift. Hams will be stationed in the timing tent, the starting boat, on the beach and with the race officials. We will meet in the timing tent at 0730. Once the last race is done we can secure. HTs and simplex frequencies are used for this event. Please make sure you have fully charged batteries. A speaker-mic and earbud are very helpful for this event. We will be on the 146.745 repeater and/or 146.505 simplex.

Volunteers are needed for the Pigman Long-Course Triathlon on Sunday 17 August at Pleasant Creek State Park and surrounding area. This will be an all day event. Split shifts are available. Many hams will be needed. We will meet at the gazebo in the first parking lot on the left after the park entrance at 0700 (Safety boat and assistant net control volunteers will meet at 0645). We should be done around 1700.

Volunteers are needed for the Multiple Sclerosis Cycle for the Cure bike ride to Marshalltown and

back. The event starts at Atkins Elementary School on Saturday 23 August. The bikers will overnight in Marshalltown and return to Atkins on the same route on Sunday. Hams will be needed at busy intersections, water stops and SAG wagons. I will contact clubs in Benton, Tama and Marshall Counties for assistance. More details to come.

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.

If you have questions about any event or would like to volunteer, please contact me by email at [k0ecw.ericwatson@gmail.com](mailto:k0ecw.ericwatson@gmail.com) or by phone at 319-361-7951.

As of this writing the Events Calendar for 2008 is:

- 12 July, Saturday, Linn County Fair Parade, Central City
- 9 August, Saturday, Dragon Boat Races, Pleasant Creek Recreation Area, Palo  
\*\*\*NOTE THE DATE CHANGE\*\*\*
- 17 August, Sunday, Pigman Long course Triathlon, Pleasant Creek Recreation Area, Palo
- 23-24 August, Saturday through Sunday, Multiple Sclerosis Cycle For The Cure bike ride, some cyclists starting from Cedar Rapids/Marion will stay overnight in Marshalltown before returning the next day.
- 20 September, Saturday, Alzheimer's Walk at Noelridge Park, Cedar Rapids
- 25 October, Saturday, Muddy Monster Cross Country Run (formerly the Devil's Dash) at Seminole Valley Park \*\*\*Please note the date change\*\*\*

I recommend programming the commonly used club frequencies into your radios:

Primary Repeater	W0GQ	146.745	-600Hz offset	no tone
Secondary Repeater	W0HUP	145.150	-600Hz offset	192.8Hz tone
Primary Simplex		146.505		
Secondary Simplex		146.460		
Nationwide 2M calling freq		146.520		

## CVARC and ARES at VIOLA GIBSON SHELTER, JUNE 2008

CVARC and ARES at the Viola Gibson Elementary School Evacuation Site: June 2008

During the recent Linn County Flood Watch Net, dozens of area amateurs provided both technical and operations support to the week-long, 7x24 Net-related efforts at the Viola Gibson Elementary School Evacuation Center.

There were at approximately 200 evacuees living there for the entire week during which our radio desk was active. We passed a considerable amount of traffic, especially since landlines were inoperable at the school and cell phone coverage from within the building was intermittent or unavailable through several providers. In addition to handling traffic for the Red Cross and the Salvation Army, we also provided services to DMAT [Iowa Disaster Medical Assistance Team], the Abbey Center, Mount Mercy Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, CRPD, CRFD and other local, state and national organizations who were on-site at various times during the week. We also provided communications support for the Viola Elementary School Administrative Staff and the school Principal who were helping to coordinate logistic support for evacuees on site as well as relief efforts in the Palo area.

Our communications desk hardware was well equipped, staffed and maintained. We had dual-band UHF/VHF and independently fed antennas installed both inside and outside the building and were able to quickly shift over to the indoor antennas when inclement weather struck during the week. We converged on simultaneous operation of two independent portable VHF stations (one for simplex use and one for general net use) as well as a UHF unit which was used to coordinate local ham support efforts for the Viola Gibson site. A rechargeable battery back-up power supply was on site for the duration of the Net, but it did not have to be put into use.

On the first day of ham activity at the school, a team of amateurs quickly re-established Internet service to the school environment by working with the local cable ISP and installing ham-supplied wireless and wired routers. It turned out that this Internet service, still in operation at the time this article was written, was used extensively by ALL of the support agencies at the evacuation site.

During the busier day/early evening period, from

approx 0700-2200, we usually had at least two people 'working the desk' on a scheduled basis. The Viola Gibson site also assumed Net Control duties for several days during the week-long support efforts.

Below is a *partial* list of the dozens of amateur radio operators, not in any order, who supported communication efforts at the Viola Gibson site. These operators staffed the radio desk, provided hardware/technical support, and/or assisted in station set-up and maintenance using both scheduled and ad hoc approaches. If you helped out and we did not capture your effort(s) in our logs, we want to hear from you, so please email W0MRZ

[W0MRZ@arrl.net] so that your participation can be credited/added to future Flood-Net related documents and articles: KD0HF, KA0YSQ, KD0EFL, W7II, KD0EFL, KD0CGN, W0LJ, N0LN0, KC0ODK, NA0IA, KD1AC, KD1AD, K0LYP, NY0V, K0PAS, KD0DOX, KC0UMQ, WA0KHH, and W0MRZ.

Thank you ALL for the time and efforts you contributed to the Flood Net station at the Viola Gibson Elementary School Evacuation Center.

Submitted by Michael Zomlefer, W0MRZ.

### **GO-KIT RADIOS NEEDED**

CVARC is looking for mobile radios to upgrade the emergency Go-Kits. A Go-Kit is a backpack that contains a VHF radio, a power supply, antenna and necessary cables. It has all the parts needed to put a station on the air. They were recently used for the Linn County flooding radio communications.

The club has two Go-Kits and both need better radios. Does anyone have a radio that they would like to donate to the club or make available at a reasonable price?

The ideal radio would be a dual-band VHF-UHF mobile unit with multiple channel memory and sub-audible tones available. Power output should be 25 watts or more. Contact Steve Jones, WA6GFD at 377-2219 or Tom Hess, KD0HF at 395-9620 if you have equipment that is available.

### **K-12 CORNER**

K-12 corner will be back in August.

Now, halfway through the break of local schools, is a great time to help someone start studying for their first amateur license.

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](mailto: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?

Our usual printers were flooded out from their location – we continue to use them in their secondary location. Pictures of Field Day coming next month.

KC0NXN & KC0NXO

### **CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**

**FOR SALE -** I am selling my HF and VHF stations this summer after many years in the hobby with a lot of fun. Make an offer please. Arnold Bucksbaum, W0WGZ, 310 363 6010, e-mail: [abucksbaum@ieee.org](mailto:abucksbaum@ieee.org)

MFJ Tuner V, Model 9898; Amp Supply Co. HF amplifier, LK450 1000 Watts; Kenwood PS 450S, HF Transceiver; Kenwood Mike, MC-60, goes with above transceiver; Yaesu G-800 SDX, antenna rotor and control; MFJ 286 Speaker Mike, for Kenwood; Kenwood PS 430 Power Supply, 12v; TS 790A, 144/430 Kenwood Transceiver, 30W power; Diamond SX-400 SWR and vhf Power Meter; MFJ -1116 Multiple DC Power Outlets; Mirage D3010, 430-450 MHz, 30 w to 100 w output amp; Astron PS-20A Power Supply, goes with above amp; Kenwood power supply, KPS 7A, 12v; Ham Radio table; 40' Aluminum Tower with Hazer elevator, no guy wires; with elevator you never have to climb tower; 3 element Cushcraft antenna 10 to 40 meters; Coax switch, 4 pole-single throw; Compaq computer, windows 98, replicator.

### **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!

**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 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: \_\_\_\_\_