

W0GQ

W0WSV



BANDSPREAD



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

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, August 13, 2009, 7:30 PM
Warren Amfar W0WL - Antenna myths
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 cvarebrd@rf.org

Deadline for September 2009 Issue is August 27, 2009

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
146.43Ø MHz	Iowa County Amateur Net (ICAN)	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

AUGUST CVARC MEETING PREVIEW

If you have any questions please call me.... or email gregg@thelinds.net

This month's presentation will be by Warren Amfar WOWL - it will be on antenna myths and potpourri on wire antennas and antenna tuners.

Gregg Lind KC0SKM

RON BRIETWISCH KC0OX - SK

We have just learned that Ron Breitwisch - KC0OX - has become a Silent Key.

Ron died peacefully from brain cancer the afternoon of August 4. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Ron has been a member of CVARC since the early 70's. He was an active member who held most offices over the years, but his passion was Emergency Service. He worked many hours on the local state and national levels to promote Emergency Services.

Over the years, his calm and reasoned approach helped establish credibility for all Amateur operators and cemented our relationship with EMA.

It was an honor to have known him.

de NA0IA

* * *

Hello,

Some of you may remember me when I contracted at RC in 2007/2008. I knew Ron before any of you, back in our home town of Manitowoc, WI. But what you do not know was Ron was one of my peers that got me to get my HAM license.

Ron was a CB'er in the 60's/70's getting his HAM license (I think) in 1970 as WN9AKQ [All Kings-n-Queens], a year later WB9AKQ. I got the electronics bug starting in CB and building Radio Shack kits that led me into knowing Ron. I was invited to Art's house where Ron and a few other high school guys hung out on Friday nights playing ping-pong while we listened to Art's Hallicrafters tuned to 890 WLS where all the current hits/oldies played! I was the pesky nuisance youngster at ~14yrs to these guys of 16-19.

But I got my HAM license in 1972, in the first and only HAM radio course offered at Lincoln High, but also in part due to these older guys prodding/challenging me. So Ron in part got me focused on electronics.

Another item you may not know about the Breitwisch's is they lived on the corner of 17th street & Division Street in Manitowoc. Each year starting in the 60's the Breitwisch's put up an annual Christmas display on their corner lawn. Each display had major motion items and different Christmas themes every year. This was before the days of stepper motors, electronics controllers, timers, with old fashion big bulb lights, etc. They created gears/cams/motors in special setups to make reliable motion to these displays. Grandpa Breitwisch had to be a mechanical genius handing this ability to his kids and grandkids (Ron). Add to this the weather proofing that was required for rain/snow/blizzards. Every year the police would have to control the traffic going around the Breitwisch's corner taking in all of the display.

Ron was rather special to me - he got me looking and focused on HAM radio that became my career (like him). I never told him, and I doubt he ever knew this - but there is a moral here, you never know who you may touch, guide, and inspire.

Best regards,

Dale Kubichek, N6JSX

* * *

We live in a universe that is some 14 billion years old. (Yes, opinions vary on this. Bear with me.) It's some 46 billion light-years wide, a distance that will not really fit in the human mind. There are ten-to-the-eightieth-power atoms in it -- a number so large there isn't really a name for it. And in each of those atoms, the electrons race around the nucleus about one billion billion times each second. Our universe is incomprehensibly vast, and we are an incredibly small and insignificant part of it. Cosmologically speaking, we're not even a blink...and yet, all I can think about right now is how much I am going to miss Ron Breitwisch.

Ron was an integral part of the Linn County community. His poise, confidence, and open demeanor opened many doors and cemented many relationships that have been crucial to our success as emergency communicators and competent operators. I knew and worked with Ron for many years. He was my colleague, my mentor, and my friend, and I owe him a debt that I cannot now repay. Ron knew that, despite our place in a large and rather cold, uncaring universe, what we do, especially for each other, DOES matter. He knew the importance of lending a hand when you could, and asking for help when you couldn't. He knew that a significant portion of success

lies in never giving up -- even while on therapy, and fighting to even speak at times, he contributed greatly behind the scenes during the flood last summer and the subsequent events of the year. He did what he could, when he could, and encouraged and taught others to do the same.

Ron, we were honored to know you. 73, and good journey.

Scott Haney, N0GUD
EC, Linn County ARES

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 are organized in annual subdirectories.

If you would like to get an e-mail notice of when the latest Bandspread is on the Website, please email Laura, KCONXO at kcønxo@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 køvm@arrl.net.

JULY 2009 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The July 2009 Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Director's meeting was held 9 July 2009 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. In President's WA6GFD absence, Vice President N0XZL called the meeting to order at 6:47 pm. Others in attendance were: K0SKM, AK0R, W0MRZ, N0GUD, K0PON, N0XIA and WA0KHH.

The Board Minutes from the June 2009 meeting were accepted without modification by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Club Treasurer K0PON reported that the club had a balance of \$1930. 05.

N0XZL discussed the need for volunteers for the club's Hamfest in early August. He also detailed the upcoming public events in which CVARC would be expected to participate. Details for these events will be provided in future issues of the Bandspread. A general discussion ensued about fine-tuning the mailing list for Hamfest, in the light of increased postal-processing fees for this year.

Steve Sawyers indicated he would be purchasing books for future 'door prizes' during Hamfest. N0XIA also discussed upcoming ham classes for the

fall.

WA0KHH discussed the next Ham Exam Session which will be held at Hamfest on August 2nd starting at 10 am. Registration will for the exam session will be downstairs and just outside the main Hamfest venue, while the actual exam session will take place upstairs.

The board meeting was closed at 7:07 pm.

Submitted by W0MRZ, Secretary

JULY 2009 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The July 2009 general membership meeting was held Thursday, 9 July 2009 in the Kenwood United Methodist Church.

The formal meeting was opened at 7:31PM by Vice President Rick Olney, substituting for the absent WA6GFD; all 63 attendees and guests introduced themselves.

The minutes for the June 2009 meeting were accepted unanimously by those present.

Club Treasurer K0PON reported that the club had a balance of \$1930. 05.

WA0KHH discussed the next Ham Exam Session which will be held at Hamfest on August 2nd starting at 10 am. Registration will for the exam session will be downstairs and just outside the main Hamfest venue, while the actual exam session will take place upstairs.

The club VP led a general discussion about the upcoming Hamfest on 2 August and the need for volunteers for that event.

K0SKM introduced Joe and Joey Freeland who provided a joint talk revolving around both their 'new ham experiences'. At the conclusion of their talk, they led a group effort to build an omni-directional, horizontally-polarized 6m dipole configuration. A total of twelve antennas were assembled, tested and configured before the evening was over.

The formal meeting was closed at 7:50 pm.

Submitted by W0MRZ, Secretary

ARES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – JULY 2009

Minutes for 2 July 2009 ARES planning committee

Attending: N0GUD, KF0VF, KD0HF, W0HKR, KI0OB, W0IM, AC0HB

- ◆Introductions
- ◆Review of past month's activities
 - 7 June Pigman
 - Actually covered by CVARC.
 - Had sufficient volunteers. WA6GFD not present to report, but nothing of concern was passed on from him.
 - 19 June Storm Events
 - Two fairly strong storms occurred this day
 - ‡ Warnings went active around 0700h. Net started, EOC liaison established.
 - ‡ Second set of storms in the afternoon.
 - ‡ Governor's Volunteer Award occurred in between (see below).
 - 20 June Tour de Cure
 - Event actually covered by CVARC.
 - Seemed to go reasonably well from our end. N0GUD suffered some antenna problems that have been corrected.
 - Some concern about how to track final riders on the different rides. Nobody (including ride coordinators) had a good idea of how many riders were actually out on the road. Coordinators need a system by which riders are tracked, which we'll use.
 - Another ride sharing part of route was also active that day! There was a bit of conflict, and the chalk marks indicating routes were very confusing to the riders.
 - We filled as many gaps as we could in the system.
 - Prompted some discussion about how to request repeaters/support from surrounding counties (see below).
 - 21 June Storm Event
 - Relatively mild. Most of weather missed Linn County.
 - Benton went under warnings, but atypically, these did not carry to Linn.
 - 23 June Storm Event
 - Winds measured 65-80 mph depending on location and time.
 - Some questions raised as to reporting criteria, some actual traffic carried, and damage reports.
 - Generally, good net discipline, but a few things need to be corrected now before they become problems.
 - VHF/UHF radio in 112 (Rockwell) is not working. Will inform CARC.
 - 27 June Field Day
 - CVARC event.
 - 875 contacts, not counting GOTA. GOTA is estimated at 300 contacts.
- ◆Governor's Volunteer Award
 - N0GUD displayed the certificate received.
 - N0GUD also photographed with Governor Culver, who presented the proclamation of Amateur Radio Week. Should appear in QST.
- ◆NDMS drill this summer, 11 July
 - N0GUD informed by SEC that this is more of an exercise than a full drill.
 - N0GUD has copies of plans and forms to be used (shown).
 - St Luke's and Mercy are preparing for the exercise. Ham equipment is being readied. WA6GFD, KD0HF, and/or N0GUD will spend part of this week programming frequencies if they are not already programmed.
 - Plan is to use the 440 MHz linked system (through Chelsea on our end) to establish contact.
 - State EOC will not be staffed for this drill. It is run from an airport.
 - HF is possible from there, but conditions will not be optimal, and SEC feels it is not necessary for an exercise of this scope. If requested, they will set up HF, however. N0GUD to request this from AC00F.
- ◆MS Bike Ride (29-30 August)
 - No new information.
 - WA6GFD and N0GUD will work out the plan as information comes in. (WA6GFD was not able to provide an update before leaving town for the holiday.)
- ◆Review action item list
 - Reviewed, with progress noted.
- ◆Independence Day Net
 - Change of plan: command post will be active!
 - Request came in late Tuesday.
 - Command post will be available after 1600h. We can staff as late as 1800h, though.
 - Will need to be staffed until 2230h at least.
 - Comm Center at EOC will be active, but we will not staff that unless the need arises.
 - KI0OB and AC0HB have volunteered to staff. KD0HF will be on-site and will help coordinate.
- ◆Discussion Topic: support for/from surrounding counties and repeaters.
 - Jones County ARC meeting discussed this topic. (ARES is minimal in Jones right now, and the club owns the repeater anyway.)
 - If we want to use their people, we need to put it

on the Sunday Linn ARES net, then notify their secretary (NN0L, Ron). Ron will send things out to the club members, who account for 66% of the active hams in Jones County.

- In an emergency, we can contact any officer of the club, who will do the footwork for getting us support.
- If we want to use the repeater, and it's an event we know about, they want to know 30 days in advance of our needs. Any officer may be contacted for this.
- If the repeater is needed for an emergency, we still contact an officer, but as usual with these events, adjustments may need to be made "on the fly."

Submitted by N0GUD

SUMMERFEST REPORT

The Summerfest report will be in the September Bandspread, after everyone has had a chance to fully report.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I'd like to start off by thanking all of those who helped make Field Day a rounding success. We have tallied the scores and bonus points and it appears we have done very well this year. Our total points will be about 4,500 points or so which I believe is quite a bit better than last year's scores. However, I think what made this Field Day such a success, was not so much the points, but the number of folks, especially the new amateurs that dropped by and operated during the event. It was a pleasure to watch some of the young folks working the pile ups and digging out QSO after QSO. I have heard many good comments on the repeater and in discussions with those who attended. I want to thank all of those who helped to pull the event together, and especially want to thank Jim AA0XJ for working the tent, Mike, W0MRZ, and Ken, W0HKR, for coaching the GOTA station, Justin, KI0OB for working the computers and logging software, and all of the folks who came out to help set up and tear down and to operate.

As we move into August we have two major events coming up. The first will be the PIGMAN Sprint Triathlon on Sunday August 16th. The biggest change this year is the bike course. It will be an out and back course this year as opposed to the big loop of previous years

The second event will be the MS Bike Ride on

August 29 and 30th. The route this year is very close to last year's route with some changes due to road construction. This is a two-day event with the riders going from Atkins to Marshalltown on Saturday and then back on Sunday. We definitely will need as many volunteers as we can get for this event. We have been asked to try to put our operators in each of the SAG wagons as well as being at as many of the water stops as possible.

If you would like to volunteer for either or both events please get in touch with me via email or phone can will put your name on the list. More information on both these events will be coming soon.

Look forward to seeing you all at Summerfest and at the next meeting.

WA6GFD

K-12 CORNER

One of the questions we think about a lot is how to introduce young people to skills that will come in handy if they decide to become hams. What kind of motivation can we provide to them so that they think it will be worth their time to try it?

Now that all the major TV stations have converted to digital TV, many people have picked up converter boxes to plug in to their older TVs. The missing piece, of course, is a good antenna. That's right up our alley, since building antennas is something that many hams love to do.

There are many digital TV antenna plans available, but one of the more interesting ones to look at comes from Make magazine. Their plan is here: http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2009/01/maker_workshop_pdf_dtv_antenna.html. In typical Make fashion, it's built from scrap wood, coat hangars, and steel pipe and a few other components for about \$20. It might be a great parent-child project to try before school starts.

Speaking of back to school, don't forget that many schools would love to have people volunteer to work with students. Check with your local school or school district to make that connection.

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

KC0NXN & KC0NXO

AN UPDATE ON COMMUNICATIONS

EVENTS

- ◆August 16, Sunday: Pigman Long Triathlon at Pleasant Creek State Park and surrounding communities.
- ◆August 29-30, Saturday and Sunday: Multiple Sclerosis Cycle for the Cure 150 mile bike ride. Cedar Rapids to Marshalltown on Saturday. Marshalltown to Cedar Rapids on Sunday.
- ◆September 26, Saturday: Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk at Noelridge Park.
- ◆October 25, Sunday: Muddy Monster Cross Country Run.

AREA NEWS

2009 Tesla Fest & Inventor's Faire & Midwest Amateur Radio Swap Fest

When: Sat, Aug. 29th Gates open 11 AM and event runs until 11 PM

Setup for displays & demos opens at 10:30 AM

Where: Baraboo / Sauk County Fair Grounds off Hwy 33 on east side of Baraboo

Available power (max) is 120 / 220 VAC @150 Amps to run large Power Displays.

Email your request to resonance@wildblue.net
Please be specific regarding your intentions and power requirements.

COMING NEXT MONTH

Summerfest Reports

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?

KCØNXN & KCØNXO

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 kcønxo@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: _____