

W0GQ

W0WSV



Since 1949

BANDSPREAD



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

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, March 12, 2009, 7:30 PM
T32CXX on Kiritimati Island, by Tom Vinson, NY0V and Rod Blocksome, K0DAS
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 April 2009 issue is March 26, 2009

BANDSPREAD

The Voice of the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club

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ARRL Midwest Division Dir	Bruce Frahm, KØBJ	købj@arrl.org	
ARRL Iowa Section Manager	James Lasley, NØJL	nøjl@arrl.org	
ARRL Volunteer Consulting Eng	Steve Sawyers, NAØIA	295-5983	377-2877

Net Directory

3.896 MHz	3900 Club	8:45 a.m. Sundays
146.745 MHz (alt. 145.15Ø-192.8PL)	Linn County ARES Net	7:00 p.m. Sundays
146.85Ø MHz (-6ØØ KHz)	Johnson County Sunday Net	7:30 p.m. Sundays
145.39Ø MHz (-6ØØ KHz)	Jones County ARES Net	8:00 p.m. Sundays
145.23Ø MHz (-6ØØ KHz)	Benton County ARES Net	6:30 p.m. Mondays
356Ø KHz	TLCN (CW Section)	6:30 & 10:00 p.m. Daily
397Ø KHz	Iowa 75 Meter Net (SSB)	12:30 & 6:00 p.m. Mon—Sat

WWW Addresses

CVARC Web Page: <http://cvarc.rf.org/>

ARES Web Page: <http://ares.rf.org>

Want ads and articles are accepted from all amateurs, members or not, at no charge! Submissions must be sent to

**CVARC
PO Box 2352
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
Or to kc0nxo@arrl.net**

Meeting place is indicated on the cover with program information.

For Club membership send, Name, Call, Address, Phone number, ARRL Status (Yearly, Life, or not a member), willing or not to be on call for Storm Watch and emergency situations and dues to CVARC PO Box

Yearly Dues, PAYABLE JAN 1: \$10 Regular or Family, \$5 under 18yrs of age,

After July 1: \$5 for all

MARCH CVARC MEETING PREVIEW

The March 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, March 12th.

The program will be a presentation from the T32CXX operated by Tom Vinson, NY0V and Rod Blocksom, K0DAS from 22 October 2008 through 29 October 2008 from the island Kiritimati Island. T32CXX was chosen as the Collins Amateur Radio Club is W0CXX. Operation included the CQ WW SSB weekend.

Also I am looking for a program for April please contact me if you have a request or an idea.

Gregg Lind KC0SKM

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, 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.

FEBRUARY 2009 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The February 2009 Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Director's meeting was held 12 February 2009 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. President WA6GFD called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Others in attendance were: N0XZL, KC0PON, WA0KHH, W0MRZ, KC0SKM, NA0IA and KC0OX.

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

Steve Jones announced that KC0OX, the club's Emergency Preparedness Director had resigned from his position. A vote made by the board appointed Scott Haney, N0UGD, to assume this Directorship for the duration of KC0OX's term for this coming year, until next year's election.

The Board also agreed to continue providing reimbursement for up to three ARRL Emergency Preparedness courses for club members during 2009.

W0MRZ advised the Board that he had sent thank you letters to both the Hiawatha Zion Lutheran Church and the Happy Chef Restaurant in Cedar Rapids. The club secretary also indicated he had completed and transmitted forms regarding Club registration to the Secretary of State in Iowa.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that a single club membership database would be generated in the near future, with details to be worked between the club treasurer and other stakeholders.

Steve Sawyers, NA0IA, talked about the upcoming ham classes for entry-level hams and also reminded Board members about the upcoming Weather Spotting Seminar in Cedar Rapids.

WA0KHH gave a brief timetable for upcoming exam sessions, with details to follow in upcoming Bandspreads. WA0KHH also disclosed that the Technician Class pool of exam questions would be updated on 1 July 2010 and that submissions for questions/modifications to the current pool were being accepted at this time.

Treasurer KC0PON reported that we had a balance of \$2083.62.

N0XZL led a general discussion about advertising and mailing(s) for the next club Hamfest.

The Club President indicated that he would assist in coordinating the duties normally assumed by the now vacant Communications Activity Director, and that Eric Watson has agreed to temporarily serve as point of contact for upcoming external events that the club may serve. WA6GFD indicated that AK0R, the Club Information Director would help out with the Information Director tasks for the coming year.

The board meeting was closed at 7:17 pm.

Submitted by W0MRZ, Secretary

JANUARY 2009 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The February 2009 general membership meeting was held Thursday, 12 February 2009 in the Kenwood United Methodist Church. The meeting opened 7:32 PM by President WA6GFD. All attendees and guests introduced themselves, with 37 members and guests present.

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

Club Treasurer KC0PON reported that the club had a balance of \$2083.62.

Steve Sawyers, NA0IA, talked about the upcoming ham classes for entry-level hams and also reminded Board members about the upcoming Weather Spotting Seminar in Cedar Rapids.

WA0KHH gave a brief timetable for upcoming exam sessions, with details to follow in upcoming Bandspreads. WA0KHH also disclosed that the Technician Class pool of exam questions would be updated on 1 July 2010 and that submissions for questions/modifications to the current pool were being accepted at this time.

WA6GFD introduced AK0R, the new Club Information Director to the club members present. Steve Jones also announced that KC0OX, the club's Emergency Preparedness Director had resigned from his position. A vote made by the board appointed Scott Haney, N0UGD, to assume this Directorship for the duration of KC0OX's term for this coming year, until next year's election.

A general discussion ensued about the scheduling and venue for the upcoming Weather Spotter's Class in Cedar Rapids for the following Saturday afternoon. The annual budget would be presented to the membership at its next meeting for discussion.

A discussion ensued revolving about the Club's exposure regarding its involvement with various programs that served the community. The club President indicated he would seek advice and follow-up information for a later meeting on this issue.

A unanimous vote by the membership provided \$50.00 sponsorship for the upcoming Science and Engineering Fair at Lindale Mall on March 21.

The meeting was closed at 8:10 pm

A presentation followed: 'Plumbing-Defined Radio', by David Cripe, NM0S.

Submitted by W0MRZ, Secretary

ARES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2009

Minutes for 5 February 2009 ARES planning committee

Attending: N0GUD, KF0VF, WA6GFD, KD0HF, KC0PON, WA0FBX, N0XZK, AC0HB, KC0OX

◆ Telephone call tree

- Revamp to account for changes in personnel

- ◆ Storm Spotter Training
 - Designate someone to operate a talk-in station - this is a new location, people may need directions
 - ◆ N0GUD and WA6GFD still to discuss.
 - ◆ KD0HF will handle talk-in
 - ◆ Greeters at each entrance (N0XZK or WA0FBX?)
 - Will we have any handout information for participants?
 - ◆ WA6GFD to talk to Steve Sawyers about the CVARC class having handouts
 - Will we have signs posted designating the entrance to use, where to go when inside?
 - ◆ KD0HF to print some. N0GUD to talk to WB0OAV to see what is needed.
 - Add repeater announcement for several days before the event
 - ◆ WA6GFD will see that this happens. N0GUD will provide text.
 - Need Bandspread article and flyer done
 - ◆ KD0HF provided the flyer. Submitted to Bandspread
 - ◆ N0GUD still to make copies and distribute (when illness allows)
 - ‡ EMA
 - Sent copy by email.
 - ‡ Collins website
 - Submitted to Collins news network (WA6GFD)
 - ‡ Bulletin boards at Collins
 - WA6GFD and N0GUD to handle the main buildings
 - ‡ e-mail
 - N0GUD to send to ARES reflector
 - ‡ Local stores and public posting places
 - Need to print the new ARES registration form for stations to fill out. N0GUD will print these. (50 copies)
 - ◆ Rockwell Radar
 - Upgrades may be in progress
 - ◆ The radar itself may be upgraded by the Collins people. They are working on a newer computer for the system, among other things. They may or may not be working on the waveguide as well.
 - ◆ This will be a good time for us to do some general cleaning and updates to our equipment as well. WA6GFD to check with Mr Scott in the lab and see

- what works.
- Need to conduct test in early March
 - Need to check outputs of amplifiers, exciters, and other equipment. SWR, power output, line condition, etc. We should get the transmitter bugged out before working on the receivers.
- WA6GFD spoke about a basic plan to get the EMA equipment checked out before the season starts.
- ◆ Review of actions/tasks
- ◆ Miscellanea
 - Benton County Repeater System (N0GUD, KF0VF)
 - Discussed a letter from KD0DJF concerning the state of the Benton County repeater system.
 - Need to know who knows the ins and outs of that particular system. Who set it up? Who maintained it? Is anyone responsible for it now? Possibly be able to use the link frequencies for testing. The root cause of the problems is not currently known.
 - K0VM has great experience with repeaters. We will see if he is interested in helping us bug out the system.
 - This is dependent on the Benton folks allowing us to help. It is their system – we will be offering to help only.
 - One of the issues is that there is low audio from some areas. Full carrier, full quieting, but no audio. This occasionally happens with the CVARC system as well.
 - WA6GFD to contact appropriate people.
 - Jones County repeater (KF0VF)
 - They are about to lose the receive site. The tower has changed hands and will come down sometime in the next two years.
 - They are looking into new receive sites, but nothing is certain at this moment.
 - The transmitter site is fine for the moment.
 - 160m antenna at state EOC (KF0VF)
 - Antenna space is at a premium at the state EOC.
 - No direct answer at the moment.
 - Some discussion on better 160m setups followed.
 - New FEMA IS-700a course is available
 - WA6GFD reports that effective 1 February, 121.5 and 243 MHz will not be monitored

routinely. These are the emergency beacon frequencies for aviation and maritime operations. Only 406 MHz will be monitored. Hams are encouraged to continue to monitor the older frequencies, as aircraft and radios will not all upgrade at once. The 406 MHz system is an overall improvement, however, with more modern technology. This is quite a change. We do not know if the FAA has changed any regulations to match this.

Submitted by N0GUD

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I want to thank everyone that attended the February Club Meeting for their patience as we had to move the meeting to a different room in the church. I received a call from the Admin Staff apologizing for not letting us know ahead of time they would be doing the floor. The Church Staff has been fantastic in working with us in the past and in allowing us to use the facilities for not only the regular club meetings but for the License Classes as well. Thanks again to everyone for their patience.

Starting this month, the distribution of the Bandsread will be via the Internet. The Bandsread will only be mailed to those members who have specifically requested delivery via US Mail. Please get with Mike, KCONXN if you had signed up for US Mail distribution and did not receive your copy in the mail.

We are looking for volunteers to help run some of the Club's communications activities this year. Please let me know if you are interested in helping. Also we are still looking for a Communications Activities Director. Again if you are interested please let me know.

Look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting!
73, WA6GFD, Steve

K-12 CORNER

Recently both the Collins Amateur Radio Club and CVARC voted to jointly sponsor an Award for Outstanding Achievement at the 50th annual Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair (EISEF) on 21 March at Lindale Mall. This award will go to the student(s) displaying the best use of radio or radio-electronics in their exhibit. A maximum of one award will be given in the Senior division, and a maximum of one award will be given in the Junior division.

Any project that tries to answer a question or has a hypothesis that bears on radio or radio-electronics will be a contender for the award, as well as any project where the design and construction of the experimental apparatus demonstrates skills that can be applied to Amateur Radio.

If you would like to help judge for this award, please contact Mike Miller, KC0NXN, at 319-377-5929 or kc0nrxn@arrl.net. The judging will take about 2 to 3 hours on that Saturday morning. The EISEF is also looking for judges for the regular awards; you can email Bill Gober at judging@eisef.org, or use the online signup form at http://www.eisef.org/Volunteer_Signup.htm.

On Saturday, 7 March the Boy Scout Merit Badge University was held on the U of I campus in Iowa City. One of the merit badges offered was Radio Merit Badge, taught by Mike Miller, KC0NXN with assistance from Dave Cripe, NM0S. Most of the scouts in the class were able to complete the merit badge that day. Merit Badge University is usually held in early March; a Merit Badge Workshop is held at Linn-Mar High School, usually in early November, where Radio merit badge was offered.

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 kc0nrxn@arrl.net

KC0NXN & KC0NXO

REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY TRAINING

During the 12 February CVARC Board meeting, the Board decided to once again offer to reimburse \$45 for the ARRL Emergency Communications EC-001, EC-002, or EC-003 courses. This essentially provided the on-line course free of charge to ARRL members, or with a substantial discount to non-ARRL members. Reimbursement will be made only for three participants -- the budget will not support more. We ask that you complete your course by the end of the calendar year. Information on these and other recommended training courses can be found at <http://ares.rf.org/iowa/training.html>.

There have been a few administrative rules established to make the reimbursement program run smoothly.

1. Those wishing to take advantage of this offer should "preregister" with N0GUD. This will avoid overbooking the 3 available slots. These 3 slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. You must be a CVARC member for 2009 at the time of preregistration.
3. To receive reimbursement, evidence of successful completion of the course must be submitted to the CVARC Treasurer by the November 2009 Club meeting. (This will avoid us impacting next year's budget.)
4. Note that \$45 covers the full current tuition for an ARRL member. A CVARC member that is not an ARRL member is responsible for the additional \$30 difference of the \$75 charge for non-ARRL members.

For registration deadlines, see <http://www.arrl.org/cep/calendar/>

Contact information:

Scott Haney
2721 Franklin Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-4801
n0gud@arrl.net

MIDWEST ARRL NEWS

Hello Midwest ARRL members,

Some noteworthy events are on the horizon. For the first time since Norfolk hosted it, there will be a Nebraska State ARRL convention thanks to K0NEB and the Lincoln ARC. This is March 21 and details are at

<http://www.lincolnhamfest.org/>

Our division convention is once again being hosted by WB0YNX and the 3900 Club in South Sioux City IA April 17-18. This one is on the banks of the Missouri River.

Details at

<http://www.3900club.com/mycustompage0031.htm>

ARRL's Contest branch has named 2009 the Year of the State QSO Party. The popular Missouri QSO Party will be held this year on April 4-5. Operating periods are from 1800 GMT April 4th thru 0500 GMT April 5th and again beginning at 1800 GMT on April 5th thru 2400 GMT. The object of the contest is to QSO as many Missouri amateur radio stations, in as many different Missouri counties as possible. Complete contest information is available at www.w0ma.org/mo_qso_party.htm

The Nebraska QSO Party starts 1700Z April 25 and runs one full day. Info at <http://www.hdx.net/neqso/>

A group is working on a Kansas QSO Party, possibly to be held in August. Stand by for details.

Patronizing these hamfests and on-air events will bring you enjoyment and add to the health of our great hobby. Spring also sees ARES and other public service activities switch from ice and snow storm concerns to convective severe weather and numerous opportunities for "___thon" communications support.

As always, thanks to Steve W0SJS, our Midwest Division webpage has items of interest to division amateurs. <http://www.arrlmidwest.org/>

73 Bruce
ARRL Midwest Division
Director: Bruce Frahm, K0BJ
k0bj@arrl.org

ANTENNA MOUNTS

Some time back I purchased a magnetic antenna mount that accepted the 3/8-24 threads used by some CB and Amateur whips. It looked to be a quality product with a very good magnet to hold antenna firmly in place. A few

days ago, I noticed I was having problems with the antenna mounted on this mount and discovered there was a problem in the PL-259 connector. I pulled the mount off the car and worked to change the connector. I wasn't happy with the cable (It had a foil shield with very few fine wires running beside the center conductor) and decided to change not only the connector but the cable as well.

When I took the base of the mount apart, I was shocked to discover the wires were not soldered to anything! The center conductor was folded back over the plastic insulator and a metal washer was placed on top of it and held down by mounting nut. Likewise, the shield wires, what few there were, were twisted together to form a pig tail and then laid back against the outer jacket of the coax cable. This was on the underside of the plastic insulator and the shield was pressed against the metal base by the outer cable jacket.

I was pretty surprised to find this kind of termination and then remembered I had bought a similar mount for a 7/8 wave 2 meter antenna but had not been able to get the antenna to tune and had shelved it waiting for warmer weather. When I checked the mount it was the same kind of a mount! I am suspecting this might have been part of the problem I was experiencing in matching the 2 meter antenna.

If you are having problems tuning an antenna on a magnetic mount, particularly those with the 3/8-24 inch thread mount, you might want to check for continuity between the cable conductors and the mount. I am going to modify the mount by changing the cable and by using some screws to securely fasten the wires to the magnetic base as well as the mount itself.

WA6GFD

CVARC PROVIDES PUBLIC SERVICE

Members of the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club and other local area amateurs were called upon to assist FCC Field personnel in answering questions about the Analog to Digital Television Conversion.

A display was set up in the Lindale Mall Facility to allow shoppers, walkers, and other visitors to stop by and ask questions about making the conversion and to get possible solutions to problems they were encountering. A practical demonstration was also set up to guide visitors through the setup process for the Digital to Analog converter boxes.

The group assisted about 150 members of the Cedar Rapids Community in making the analog to digital transition. While there, KWVL-TV interviewed Mr. Walden.

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!

Linn County

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: _____