

W0GQ

W0WSV



BANDSPREAD



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

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, October 8, 2009, 7:30 PM
Holiday DXpeditions from The Bahamas and the British Virgin Islands, Steve, AKØM
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 November 2009 Issue is October 22, 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

OCTOBER CVARC MEETING PREVIEW

Many amateur radio operators wonder what it would be like to operate as DX. One solution is "Holiday Dxpeditioning," which can relatively easily be incorporated into vacation activities. There are many aspects to planning, preparation and operating, particularly in minimizing expense and travel inconvenience while maximizing enjoyment of the hobby as well as opportunity to interact more with "the locals". Steve will share his related experiences in holiday dxpedition activities to The Bahamas and the British Virgin Islands as C6ASB and VP2VES over the last few years.

Steve AK0M was first licensed in 1972 as WN0GRJ and has also operated from Ascension Island as ZD8S. His amateur radio interests include portable operating, QRP, propagation, antenna design and contesting. He earned a BS in Electrical Engineering at the University of Missouri-Rolla and has been employed in a variety of engineering and technology roles in vehicular electronics, avionics, radar and information systems. He is currently an independent consultant living in Cedar Falls providing system, software and product engineering services.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2009 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The September 2009 Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Director's meeting was held 10 September 2009 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. President WA6GFD called the meeting to order at 6:46 pm. Others in attendance were: W0MRZ, KC0SKM, KC0PON, NA0IA, WA0KHH.

WA0KHH reminded the Board that the upcoming General Class License classes would begin on 17 September and meet weekly through November. In addition, WA0KHH highlighted upcoming ham exam

sessions, including the 24 September seating in Vinton.

KC0PON stated that the checking account balance was \$2967.57.

The Board Minutes from the August 2009 meeting were accepted by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Club President announced that the MS Bike ride was an unqualified success with many ham operators participating over a very long and challenging course. The club president also reviewed the following public service events in which CVARC has been asked to participate: CRPD Walk for the Neighborhood, The Alzheimer's Walk and the Muddy Monster event; full details on these events will be supplied in the next Bandspread. All club members are invited to participate.

WA6GFD led a general discussion/review concerning the next CVARC Board elections, to be held in January, 2010. The following positions will become open for that election: Vice President, Secretary, Information Director and Emergency Preparedness Director.

The club treasurer agreed to generate preliminary 2010 budget information documents for Board discussion at its next meeting in October.

The board meeting was closed at 7:01 pm.

Submitted by W0MRZ, Secretary

SEPTEMBER 2009 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The September 2009 general membership meeting was held Thursday, 10 September 2009 in the Kenwood United Methodist Church.

The formal meeting was opened at 7:30 pm by President Steve Jones, WA6GFD with all 82 attendees and guests introducing themselves.

Ahead of the formal meeting, the evening's presentation was teleconferenced into California and was entitled "Propagation & Antenna Modeling" and presented by Stuart Phillips K6TU.

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

Steve Jones announced that hard copy version of the Bandspread were available at the meeting for those who wanted it.

KC0PON stated that the checking account balance was \$2967.57.

WA0KHH highlighted upcoming ham exam sessions, including the 24 September seating in

Vinton. In addition, he noted that CVARC would be hosting an exam session on the morning of 21 November 2009 at the Rockwell Collins Main Plant Cafeteria.

KI0WA highlighted the upcoming General Class License classes would begin on 17 September and continue through November 21st, inclusively

Mike Miller, Bandspread Editor, wanted to be notified by any members who have not received their Bandspread over the past month or two.

Steve Jones summarized upcoming public events that CVARC would be supporting, including the CRPD Walk for the Neighborhood, Alzheimer's Walk and the Muddy Monster Run. Details on these events would be posted on the CVARC web page and in the Bandspread. In addition, ARES would again be supporting the 'Witch Watch' on Halloween under the supervision of the Linn County Sheriff's Department.

The formal meeting was concluded at 8:13 pm.

Submitted by W0MRZ, Secretary

ARES PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2009

Minutes for 3 September 2009 ARES planning committee

Attending: N0GUD, WA0UIG, AC0HB, KB0KW, KD0HF, WA6GFD, W0HKR, KF0VF, W0IM

◆ Introductions

◆ Review of past month's activities

□ 9 August Storm Event

- Fairly light, mainly monitoring.
- Bulk of activity was to our north – few spotters in that area.
- About 18 staff hours.

□ 19 August Storm Event

- Unknown hours.
- Fairly heavy weather, with a tornado reported in Jones County
 - ‡ This appeared to be a leading-edge event, what used to be known as a "gustnado."
 - ‡ One ham in that area called in for information, which was provided.
 - ‡ No formal request for support received from Jones. See discussion below.

□ Week ending 28 August Rain/Flood events

- Copious rain all week resulted in flooding of area creeks and roadways.
- Public service was very busy.
- EMA contacted, but did not require help.

‡ Information sent in as it was collected off of informal nets.

□ 29-30 August MS 150 Bike Ride

- How many staff hours?
- How many stations participated?
- Used CVARC and Marshalltown 2m repeaters, and 146.505 simplex.
- Some issues that came out of the event include:

‡ Some stations did not answer when called by NCS. In a formal net, NCS must be notified if station is not going to be on frequency for any reason. (In practice, this is sometimes hard to do.)

‡ Some stations went direct station-to-station. Again, with a formal net, stations should coordinate through NCS.

- There are other ways to run such an operation, but once a formal net and NCS is established, we need to stick with that.

‡ NCS needs to allow time for stations to clear to ID.

‡ Not all riders wore their numbers correctly, or readably.

- With numbers obscured, we would not have been able to track them had we needed to do so.
- Even for those correctly wearing numbers, some locations did not have the best visibility and could not read them anyway.

x Were not asked to do this year, but were last year.

x Route next year may be on trails rather than roads, which will change the need.

‡ Always bring your best antenna with the highest gain!

- N0GUD confesses: I meant to bring the 5/8 wave, and had only the 1/4 wave, and it showed.

‡ In all, it went very well.

- We had to relay a lot of traffic, which was a great exercise in traffic management.
- Chelsea repeater was tried on Friday, but it's linked to the Marshalltown 444 machine, which was being used on the western half of the route. Thus, all that traffic was on Chelsea as well, and we couldn't put everything on just one

virtual machine.

- Had some creative antennas in use. The standard ducky that comes with handhelds is NOT suitable for heavy, sub-optimal use.
- Next year, it may be on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail or such.
 - x Had a few issues with traffic during the event, especially toward the end.
- Sag Wagon
 - x Need to have a mobile rig with cigarette lighter and external antenna rather than a handheld.
 - x Some antennas used during event hadn't been vetted beforehand and failed.
- We had a new ham take the net at one point, and she did quite well. She even pulled off moving the station on ten minutes' notice. (WA0UIG, good job!)
 - ‡ Not aware of an official post-event critique. Will check (WA6GFD).

◆Inter-County cooperation and requests for assistance

- At a past meeting, we discussed Jones County ARES's preferred method of requesting help from them.
- Recent storm activity raised question of how other counties should request help from Linn County.
 - Jones County had four hams active during the storm net, but made no request for help.
 - One ham made a request on her own, and help was provided by those on the air.
 - ‡ Some question on the air of whether the Collins radar was needed, or just general radar would suffice.
 - ‡ Information provided, but some concern that we may have missed a request.
 - Underscores the importance of establishing a liaison to surrounding counties.
 - KF0VF attended the Jones ARC meeting this month and brought the topic up.
 - ‡ The Collins radar is mainly what they need.
 - ‡ For a west-east storm, they would like the radar to remain up until Jones can clear.
 - ‡ They actually had more than four participants, but many were silent per good radio discipline.
 - ‡ The issue was in how to contact Linn County for assistance. Normally, they

could call us on the CVARC machine, but this wasn't actually resolved during the meeting.

- ‡ Establishing a liaison is ideal, but we don't always have sufficient people for that.
 - ‡ NCS needs to actually ask for liaison stations. They will not happen automatically.
 - ‡ Jones County still does not have an EC, but the DEC covers things a bit.
- ◆Procedure for when 146.745 is down
- KF0VF had a query from a new ham on our procedure when 146.745 is down.
 - Of course, we move to 145.15 when CVARC is down – already established.
 - But both are on the same tower, so there's a good chance both machines will be down. Current published procedures only refer to the alternate repeater, nothing further.
 - Information passed through KF0VF was that, lacking other information, hams should move to 146.505, then 146.460, both simplex. This not officially listed on the website.
 - Ad hoc can always work if adjustments need to be made in the field.
 - A third repeater would be useful as a second backup. Simplex isn't always a good option during storm events, as many people (wisely) do not use their external antennas.
 - For a third repeater, we probably need an MOA between ARES and the repeater trustee/owner in advance. (N0GUD to start investigations.)
 - ‡ Third machine cannot be on the same tower.
 - ‡ Third machine should have emergency backup power.
 - Simplex channels should be added to the list, but below the repeaters.
- ◆Witch Watch
- 31 October is a Saturday this year.
 - Will contact Sheriff Gardner for instructions.
 - Not sure what facility will be active at that time.
 - Also not sure of direct contact for current watch commander.
 - Need to start gathering volunteers soon.
 - ‡ Many new hams who should be involved.
 - ‡ They should be paired with experienced people.
 - Should also contact Sgt Christy Hamblin of CRPD about something similar in town.

- They have expressed some interest recently.
- This would drive up demand for amateur volunteers.
- Communications from their comm center is very difficult, as they have no external antennas. Sooner rather than later to allow time for planning.
- KD0HF will work on an article for the Bandspread.
- ◆ DAEC Drill 16 September
 - 0800h to 1500h (approximately)
 - DAEC and Benton County are involved
 - Not a lot of details at this point.
 - Next drill is 18 November.
 - They would like the same staff for both drills if they can get it.
 - This applies to ARES operators at the EOC – other participants can change.
- ◆ Review action item list
 - Reviewed, with progress noted.
 - Specific response on question of how to involve state EOC station in our events from Iowa Section Emergency Coordinator Dan Miller, AC00F:
 - The only way to get the State EOC activated is through Homeland Security/Emergency Management. The amateur station can't be activated unless the whole EOC is activated. If it is necessary to relay information or messages we need to get a net set up to handle things. If ARES is working correctly, the EC of the affected County would contact his DEC for support from the surrounding Counties and the DEC would contact the SEC to get more Districts or State wide coverage implemented. This is where the problem lies in that none of this has ever happened. Everyone has been left to fend for themselves. Hopefully, I can change that. I know it won't happen this year or even next year but I hope I can start putting the wheels in motion to make it happen. It is going to take a lot of cooperation and team work but it can be done.
- ◆ Other items
 - Presentation for AC0HB on 26 September – volunteers needed.
 - N0GUD provided AC0HB with a number of links that could be of use.
 - If you can volunteer that day, please do so.
 - Stormwatch – KB0KW
 - Questions about how we determine who is

- a trained spotter
- ± We have a list of who attended the last spotter training.
- ± If we're not sure, we just ask.
- ± Probably need to keep the list in the book at radar.

Submitted by N0GUD

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

For those of you who missed the last club meeting, you missed a very interesting presentation via the Internet. This event opened the door for many potential future programs, presented by the subject matter experts themselves. I want to thank all of those who pitched in to get the link up and running and for setting the speaker. We are currently working with the Church to obtain a more permanent connection.

I also want to thank all of those who participated in the MS Bike ride. The event was in my opinion a huge success. It gave us an opportunity to set up temporary antennas as well as work relays to get information passed from one end of the route to the other. This event was a particular challenge due to the distances and in some cases the terrain involved.

As Winter approaches, it is time to take a look at our antennas and support structures to make sure they are ready for the upcoming weather to follow. It is also time to choose those amateur radio projects that will help you make it through the Winter and into the Spring.

Just a reminder: The Muddy Monster Fun Run will be held on Saturday 24 October in Seminole Valley Park. More details on this event will be forthcoming.

See you at the meeting on October 8.

WA6GFD

K-12 CORNER

We hear a lot about the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, usfirst.org) and their robotics competitions. It starts with Lego League and moves up to high school with the FIRST Tech Challenge and FIRST Robotics Challenge. Students who take part in these programs usually have a technical bent, and at the high school level have had hands-on experience building a radio-controlled robot. They could be very good prospects for becoming Radio Amateurs.

In addition to the the long-running FIRST Robotics team at Linn-Mar High School, there are FIRST Tech Challenge teams at Jefferson High School

in Cedar Rapids, in Solon, in Vinton and two in Mt. Vernon.

The FIRST Lego League and Tech Challenge teams are in full swing right now, working up to their competitions in December and January, respectively. The FIRST Robotics build sprint kicks off just after that and finishes just six weeks later.

If you are in one of the districts with a FIRST team, look for chances to “show the flag” by cheering them on or to help out a team by volunteering.

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

- ◆October 24, Saturday: Muddy Monster Cross Country Run.

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: _____