



# BANDSPREAD

## November 2010



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

## CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, 11 November, 2010 @ 7:30 PM

Kenwood Park United Methodist Church  
175 34th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

**Evening Presentation: "The Army MARS Program"**

**Tim O'Mara, W0YV**

*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 submitting articles for the December Bandsread is 26 November 2010**

# 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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Linn County Emer.Coordinator	Scott Haney, NØGUD	nogud@arrl.net	366-1465
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ARRL Iowa Section Manager	Tom Brehmer, NØLOH	nøloh@arrl.net	
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
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 [kcønxo@arrl.net](mailto: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: \$10Regular or Family, \$5 under 18yrs of age,

After July 1: \$5 for all

## **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](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).

## **CVARC BOARD MINUTES**

The October Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors' meeting was held October 14, 2010 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. President WA6GFD called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Others in attendance were KC0PON, N0XZL, W0HKR, NA0IA, N0GUD, WA0KHH, and KD0JCX.

W0HKR moved to approve the minutes for the September meeting. N0XZL seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously by the Board.

WA0KHH reported that monthly test sessions in Vinton will be held on October 28 and November 18. Another test session will be held in Cedar Rapids at 9 AM on November 20 in the cafeteria at Collins main plant. There are other test sessions around eastern Iowa.

NA0IA reported that the class for the general license has only 1 student.

KC0PON reported that the checking account balance was \$3,723.74, with no transactions for the month.

W0HKR noted that radio support was cancelled for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk because the walk was going to be held inside due to inclement weather. Later it was decided to hold the walk outside as originally planned, but radio support had been dismissed. There are enough volunteers for the Muddy Monster run on October 23 at Seminole Valley. Report at 8:00 and we should be done by noon.

N0GUD reported that there are 13 volunteers for Witch Watch. Scott will provide details in an email.

WA6GFD said that on October 19 W0OTM will give a presentation on the IHAB project. This event will be held at the St. Luke's auditorium and is open to the public. The Collins Club will have a short meeting beginning at 4:45 and the presentation will begin at 5:00. Other radio events of interest are the Iowa QSO party on October 16, the Scout Jamboree this weekend and the CQ WW DX on October 30 and 31.

The Boy Scouts are holding a session on November 6 at Linn Mar where scouts can earn a merit badge in communications. An instructor is needed.

Elections will be coming up in three months. Open positions are President, Treasurer, Program Director, Membership Promotion Director and Communications Activities Director.

A new location is needed for our Christmas party, since Happy Chef closed.

NA0IA moved, N0GUD seconded and the Board unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by KD0JCX, Secretary

## **CVARC MEETING MINUTES**

The October 2010 general membership meeting was held Thursday, October 14, 2010 in the Kenwood United Methodist Church.

The formal meeting was opened at 7:30 PM by President Steve Jones, WA6GFD, with all 63 members and guests introducing themselves.

Al, K0AL moved to approve the minutes for the September meeting. Ken, W0HKR seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously by those present.

Rick, N0XZL noted that a director for next year's hamfest is needed.

Scott, N0GUD will provide details for Witch Watch in an email. He also noted that ARRL.net doesn't like gmail and often bounces those messages.

Ken, W0HKR said there are enough volunteers for the Muddy Monster run on October 23 at Seminole Valley, however come on out to help if you'd like. Report at 8:00 and we should be done by noon. Communications for all events have been good this year and we've had praise from those we supported.

Dennis, KC0PON reported that the checking account balance was \$3,723.74, with no transactions for the month.

Steve, NA0IA thanked Bob, N0YWB and Dave, W0IM for teaching the general classes while he was out of town.

Mike, AC0PB announced that on October 19 the Collins Radio Club is hosting a presentation by W0OTM on the IHAB project. This meeting is open to the public and will be held at St. Luke's auditorium. The club meeting begins at 4:45 and the presentation will follow at 5:00.

Jerry, KI0WA said that the Boy Scouts are holding a session on November 6 at Linn Mar where scouts can earn a merit badge in communications. The materials are prepared, but an instructor is needed.

Dave, W0IM reported that about 10 to 12 people participated in the fox hunt. Ken, W0HKR was first to find the transmitter and received a trophy.

WA6GFD noted that upcoming radio events of interest are the Iowa QSO party on October 16, the Scout Jamboree this weekend and the CQ WW DX on October 30 and 31. For the Iowa QSO party, hams with mobile rigs are encouraged to rove to counties most needed by county hunters.

WA0KHH reported that monthly test sessions in Vinton will be held on October 28 and November 18. Another test session will be held in Cedar Rapids at 9 AM on November 20 in the cafeteria at Collins main plant. There are other test sessions around eastern Iowa.

WA6GFD said that Don Meyer, K0GHF donated some radio equipment to be used for a club station or be used in an amateur's home.

A new location is needed for our Christmas party, since Happy Chef closed. Please give suggestions to WA6 GFD or W0HKR.

Elections will be coming up in January. Open positions are President, Treasurer, Program Director, Membership Promotion Director and Communications Activities Director.

W0HKR moved, NA0IA seconded and those present unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the formal meeting at 8:05 pm.

The evening's presentation was given by Rod Blocksome, K0DAS on Fifty Years of Ham Radio (as I saw it).

Respectfully submitted by KD0JCX, Secretary

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

With the Muddy Monster event behind us, we have now reached the end of the communications activities for this year. I want to thank Ken, W0HKR, for all of the time and effort he put into organizing, planning and making each of the communications activities a success. However, no matter how well organized, or planned an event might be, it also takes the participation of the individual club members and amateur radio operators to execute the plans and to bring the event off. I wish to thank each of you who have participated in one or more of these events, and especially those new Hams, who over came the new-guy fears and jumped in to support the events. In addition to providing a service to the community and making an event safer, these events offer an excellent opportunity to try out new radios, new antennas, and perhaps new modes of operation. This is a good time for each of us to review the performance of our radios, power supplies/sources, antennas and operating aides and identify things we need

to tweek to increase or improve our individual capabilities. Thanks again for helping CVARC and the amateur radio community give something back to our community.

'Just a reminder that we are searching for new location for the CVARC Christmas Party. We have gotten a few suggestions and are following up to see which facility can best serve our needs. The location will be announced as soon as arrangements are made.

'Look forward to seeing you all at the November meeting.

**Steve Jones, Wa6GFD**

## **ARES Planning Committee Minutes for 7 October 2010**

Attending: WA0FBX, KB0KW, KD0HIG, AC0OQ, N0AOE, KD0IOL, KD0JCX, KC0LYA, KC0ALC, WA6GFD, N0XZK, WA0UIG, KC0ZNK, KD0HF, KD0LME, W0HKR, KF0VF. Meeting led by N0GUD, EC for Linn County

- Review of Past Month's Events
  - Swamp Fox 5k (Marion, 18 September)
    - No comments on this. Went smoothly.
  - Linn County ARES radio test (21 September)
    - WA6GFD has written this up. Largely successful, with a few issues.
    - Chelsea repeater is down, or at least the link is.
    - St Luke's reports that we can get our antenna on their tower, which should improve things. (Note: St Luke's issues were largely radio programming.)
    - Sheriff's Office was not able to participate – the coaxial cable from the antenna to the dispatch was never installed. LCSO ordered it and paid for it, but it was incomplete at the time of the test. LCSO reports this will be done before Witch Watch.
  - Alzheimer's Walk
    - The weather was dodgy, so the organizers moved the event indoors. They released the ham support group as a result.
    - Hams went for breakfast, and when they drove by, people were outside. The organizers had many requests to go outside, so they allowed it. Unfortunately, they were not able to contact the ham support team until it was too late. We are on for next year, though.
  - Foxhunt (25 September)
    - W0IM did a good job on this.

- Started with a short practice hunt, then to real thing.
  - W0IM hid the transmitter near Ellis Park, the opposite side of town from the start point. Nobody could hear the first few transmissions, so it was a real challenge. W0HKR found it first, and received the long-missing CVARC foxhunt trophy (recently retrieved by N0GUD).
- Witch Watch planning
  - N0GUD has the maps we've used the past couple of years. He'll make sure we have enough copies that night.
  - The ENTIRE event will be conducted on the 145.15 repeater (W0HUP).
    - This requires a 192.8 Hz tone. All participants should have their radios programmed for this before the event.
    - We will move the net only in the event of an unusual event, such as equipment failure or a stuck mic.
      - NCS will monitor CVARC as well.
  - 146.505 will be designated simplex.
  - Planned muster time is 18.00h this year, an hour later than years past due to still being on daylight saving time.
- SET
  - N0GUD presented scoring criteria.
  - KB0KW suggested working with the hospitals on some of their drills.
- General
  - Both hospitals have established ID criteria.
    - Request is that we go as a group to get this done, during normal business hours.
  - Similar for LCSO. They are reworking the access list now that they are in their usual facility.
  - CRPD station
    - The radio test showed that CRPD could not hit all surrounding counties.
    - We conducted additional tests and found that a 6dB gain antenna solves the problem. This will be installed in October.
  - Collins Radar
    - New antenna is IN. We are working with facilities to get access and get the work done. Will hold off until everything is in so we can get it all done at once, as there is a lot of work going on out there now.
  - Website and Email
    - N0GUD reported that the arrl.net domain and Gmail do NOT get along all the time. Gmail is flagging anything to/from arrl.net as spam at the server level and dropping it. Any bounce messages should be sent to [postmaster@arrl.net](mailto:postmaster@arrl.net).
- N0GUD also reported that the rf.org domain was down for a while. He set up a temporary backup. rf.org is again in operation.
  - Emergency Volunteer Center NIMS training
    - WA0UIG trained on handling walk-in volunteers.
    - Trained volunteers are “staff.”
  - Robins Tower Situation
    - A ham in Robins was denied a variance for a tower.
    - Robins has no tower ordinance, so they treated it as a structure, which can have an “average height” of only 20 feet.
    - A covenant was involved as well, but the gist of the discussion in Robins was that they do not understand PRB-1 or the realities of radio (“Is the radiation dangerous?”).
  - Cedar Falls linked repeater
    - KF0VF and W0IM report that the linked machine in Cedar Falls is down, as they lost their tower space. Not sure when it will be back up.
    - The machine in Marshalltown is down as well.
    - Both of these are linked to Chelsea, which might explain why we had such trouble with the radio test.
  - Jone County repeater
    - The changes to 145.39 are held up due to having no new receive antenna.
    - The receive site will still be near Monticello, which will make hitting that repeater harder from Linn County.
    - The Jones group is looking for another RX site in the SW portion of the county.
  - Moving a net to another frequency
    - KF0VF presented a draft, and asked for critiques. These will be sent before the next meeting.

**Submitted by Scott Haney, N0GUD**

### **From the Editor's Desk – W0MRZ**

Scott Haney, N0GUD forwarded this summary description of the recent **Witch Watch** public service event; special thanks goes to Dave, WA0ZZG for providing the photos for this story:

*"Witch Watch was again a success this year! We had 18 people come out that night, fielding seven vehicles and staffing the stations at the Linn County Sheriff's Office and the Cedar Rapids Police headquarters. It was a very quiet evening,*

*a combination of Monday being a school day and Halloween still being on daylight saving time.*



**Sergeant Joel Peshek (left) with N0GUD**

*It was good to be back in the LCSO dispatch center. The entire facility looks great, with no sign of having been flooded. After two years in the Abbe Center, we were glad to be in familiar surroundings and in the same room as the dispatchers.*



**Net Control Operators Hard at Work**

*Thanks to all who participated: AC00Q, KD0HIG, KD0LME, N0AOE, W0HKR, WA0UIG, KA0YSQ, KCOALC, WB0CID, KD0IOL, WOMRZ, KOPAS, WA6GFD, KCOODK and his charming spouse, and our net control operators, KD0HF and AC0HB."*

## **CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**

**Want to buy: Hustler Mobile resonators, any combo of 40, 30, or 20 meters, and perhaps 15 & 10 M also. Want to buy a Hustler mast, preferably the MO-3. Jerry L. Bartachek Sr. KDØCA. email: [kd0ca@arrl.net](mailto:kd0ca@arrl.net) or TEL: 319-653-2591.**

### **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 Bandsread 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 Bandsread
  - 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: \_\_\_\_\_