



BANDSPREAD

October 2010



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

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Next Meeting: Thursday, 14 October 2010 @ 7:30 PM

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

Evening Presentation: "Fifty Years of Ham Radio (as I saw it)"

by Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

'The presentation will attempt to illustrate the history of ham radio as I interacted with it over the last 50 years. It will feature my early day "Elmers", the changes in amateur radio technology, lessons learned along the way, and a few interesting stories of events connecting across many years.'

*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 submitting articles for the November Bandsread is 28 October 2010

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 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, KCONXO at kcønxo@arrrl.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@arrrl.net.

CVARC BOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2010 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The September 2010 Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors' meeting was held September 9, 2010 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. President WA6GFD called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Others in attendance were N0XZL, W0HKR, KC0SKM, WA0KHH, and KD0JCX.

In the treasurer's absence, WA6GFD reported that the checking account balance was \$3,723.74.

WA0KHH reported that the monthly test sessions will be starting up again in Vinton, with the first session on September 23. Other test sessions will be held following the conclusion of the general classes, in Vinton on November 18 and in Cedar Rapids on November 20.

WA6GFD stated that classes for the general license will begin on September 16. Instructors will be NA0IA - Steve, N0YWB - Bob, W0IM - Dave, and WA6GFD - Steve.

W0HKR reported that the next event is the Alzheimer's Memory Walk on September 18. New hams are encouraged to participate since the walk takes place entirely within Noelridge Park, and volunteers are still needed. Volunteers should report at 8:30 to the parking lot at Harding Middle School. The walk begins at 10:00 and should be done by noon. Volunteers are also needed for the Muddy Monster run on October 23 at Seminole Valley. Volunteers report at 7:30 and the run begins at 9. The Witch Watch is an ARES event, and Scott will provide details on that event.

Under new business, a question was raised about having the Hamfest on Saturday instead of on Sunday. Usually there is a conflict with another hamfest on Saturday, so we have ours on Sunday so we don't lose our vendors. On a different note, in the future, if we decide to host the ARRL division convention in conjunction with our Hamfest, it would be a joint effort with the Collins Radio Club.

W0HKR moved to approve the minutes for the August

meeting. KC0SKM seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously by the Board.

WA6GFD reported that the controller was replaced on the repeater and both sites are on line now. The audio is running hotter than the old controller, so you may need to adjust your voice so you're not too loud.

N0XZL moved, WA6GFD seconded and the Board unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by KD0JCX, Secretary

CVARC MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2010 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The September 2010 general membership meeting was held Thursday, September 9, 2010 in the Kenwood United Methodist Church.

The formal meeting was opened at 7:30 PM by President Steve Jones, WA6GFD, with all 46 members and guests introducing themselves.

Gregg, KC0SKM reported that there will be a fox hunt at Oelwein Sunday September 12, a hamfest at Peoria on September 18 and 19, and West Liberty hamfest on October 3. There is also a possibility of having a joint meeting with the Collins Club sometime in the near future.

Darrel, WA0KHH said that the monthly test sessions will be starting up again in Vinton, with the first session on September 23. Other test sessions will be held following the conclusion of the general classes, in Vinton on November 18 and in Cedar Rapids on November 20.

Ken, W0HKR noted that the Sweet Corn festival 5K went well, as did the long Pigman, with 14 new hams participating. Remember that our function is to provide radio support only. Volunteers need to remain at their post and not direct traffic or sag race participants. The next event is the Alzheimer's Memory Walk on September 18. New hams are encouraged to participate since the walk takes place entirely within Noelridge Park, and volunteers are still needed. Volunteers should report at 8:30 to the parking lot at Harding Middle School. The walk begins at 10:00 and should be done by noon. Volunteers are also needed for the Muddy Monster run on October 23 at Seminole Valley. Volunteers report at 7:30 and the run begins at 9. The Witch Watch on Halloween is an ARES event, and Scott will provide details on that event.

Dave, W0IM reported that classes for the general license will begin on September 16

Instructors will be NA0IA - Steve, N0YWB - Bob, W0IM

– Dave, and WA6GFD – Steve. There will also be 2 fox hunts on September 25. The first will be for beginners, followed by a regular hunt.

W0HKR moved to approve the minutes for the August meeting. Mike, W0MRZ seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously by those present.

In the treasurer's absence, WA6GFD reported that the checking account balance was \$3,723.74.

WA6GFD reported that the controller was replaced on the repeater and both sites are on line now. We are now able to program voice messages, such as the meeting announcement. The audio is running hotter than the old controller, so you may need to adjust your voice so you're not too loud. At the end of your transmission, if you hear 1 beep, that's the north receive site, 2 beeps is the south receive site.

Scott, N0GUD said that on September 21, there will be test of communications, with stations at EMA, the 2 hospitals, CRPD and the sheriff's department. Please listen to the drill if you're not involved at the sites.

A question was raised about having the Hamfest on Saturday instead of on Sunday. Usually there is a conflict with another hamfest in Illinois on Saturday, so we have ours on Sunday so we don't lose our vendors.

Remember that no CTCSS tone is required for the CVARC repeater. The 250.3 tone is only used to activate in case of an alert.

The evening's presentation was given by Steve Jones on Antennas – Practical and Tactical.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted by KD0JCX, Secretary

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It would appear that fall is now upon us and everyone is worrying and thinking about what kind of a winter we are going to have this year. One thing is for sure, as we catch the last warming rays of the summer sun, now is the time to take a look at antennas, feed lines, guys, poles, etc and make sure they are ready for the upcoming winter.

I have had several requests for copies of the slide from the antenna presentation. I am working to add a comment sheet to go with them and will forward them to those who have asked for a copy. Will also see if it is possible to establish a repository on the web site where folks could download the presentation slides etc.

As the weather grows colder and we move into the winter season, just wanted to remind everyone that the

160 Meter ARES Net is still going strong on Sunday nights at 9:30PM local time on 1973.0KHz. If you have the capability to operate on this band drop on up and check into the net.

Lastly, as we start into the fall and winter season it is time to think about club officers. Elections will be here before we know it. If you are interested in holding and office please get your name on the ballot. There are always plenty of folks standing by to assist you. And remember we all had the "first time" we held office experience.

See you at the meeting on October 14th.

Steve Jones, WA6GFD

ARES Planning Committee Meeting Minutes - Minutes for 02 September 2010 ARES planning committee

- Introductions
 - Attending are KDOHF, WA0UIG, W0HKR, W0IM, KF0VF, AC0HB, WA6GFD, N0XZK, N0GUD
- Review of past month's activities
 - St June's run
 - New route this year, starting at Xavier HS, clockwise through Aegon and back.
 - Went smoothly, clockwise was a good choice.
 - Entire event went smoothly. A sign was lost at some point, corrected.
 - Pigman Triathlon at Pleasant Creek Park
 - Event largely went quite well, but we had some issues to work before the next one. Note that none of these were noticeable by the organizers.
 - Radio issues, mainly two stuck microphone events.
 - Note: it does NOT help to get on the air and tell everyone there is a stuck microphone, as the person with the stuck mic CANNOT HEAR the transmission. It's possible the station also has a scanner to hear, but if so, the station also hears the stuck mic. (If you hear one, just check your own equipment.)

- It was unclear at times if the net had been moved to the alternate frequency, as the announcements were made both by net control and also another station not located with net control. Remember, there can be only one net control station on any frequency. Do not make announcements unless specifically instructed to do so by net control.
- Some stations left their positions to sag people in. This should be done only with permission of net control.
 - Some of the regular sag people saw a ham do this, so they figured it was covered and left the event.
- In the future, we should not deploy stations with only handhelds to the bike portion. They don't have the power or gain to connect to NCS. Handhelds are acceptable if you have a mobile nearby through which to crossband to the main frequency. Handhelds worked well enough for the run portion, however.
- There was confusion with mile markers and position numbers. Our net should use position numbers, but call mile markers when those are given by people requesting help.
- We have 14 NEW hams for this event! Thanks, folks!
 - The new folks do need some coaching yet, but overall did fairly well – no major problems.
 - Main thing is to not just transmit a report. Always call NCS first, wait for acknowledgment, then proceed after. Emergencies should still have the call to NCS first with “break emergency” as part of the call
- The entire event was delayed 45 minutes due to fog. This resulted in folks being out an hour later than usual, in the heat, so the event was harder than it usually is.
- Radio Installation Test Project
 - We will proceed with the test on 21 September. This is the regular EMA meeting night, so we can have access to that facility. The hospitals are ready to make arrangements, and we have access to the Sheriff's dispatch through a reserve deputy who is a ham.
 - We still need to arrange access to CRPD.
 - We have no plans to test the radar installation, but if we have enough volunteers, we'll just add that in. Access is much easier than for the others.
 - WA6GFD will work out a communications plan and protocol for the event. N0GUD will assist. Other stations will staff locations. We had several volunteers at the meeting, and a few by email, and we should have enough for the event.
 - We'll see if we can start by 17:00, as the Emergency Management Commission meeting is at 18:00, and we like to have a representative there.
 - WA6GFD will see if we can arrange an HF test from St Luke's.
 - On a related note, we are working on getting better access to the stations at the hospitals. More to follow.
- Collins Radar Update
 - WA6GFD reports that the new antenna is in, and the amplifier.
 - These are not yet installed because we need to get the new feedline in – the current line is in very poor shape, and that cannot be offset by antennas and more power. We really want to get up on the roof only once.
 - We'll also be working on the comm antenna.
- Repeater Plan
 - NA0IA presented a rather well-done and complete plan for a repeater system that might be used to help us communicate with the Iowa EOC.
 - Please note that these plans are PRELIMINARY ONLY. Nothing is set, there is no budget as yet, and there are other options being explored, mainly listed below.
 - This project is driven by the results of DAEC drills. Every drill requires that amateur radio make contact with the IA EOC. In the past, this was done via packet

radio and HF. The packet link to the EOC no longer exists – parts of the backbone are missing, and we're not certain there is still packet gear in the EOC.

- We have been able to make HF contact for the drills, but the HF becomes unreliable around 10:30 or so. This would not be acceptable in a real event.
- The IA EOC crew have access to the linked repeater system in central IA. They are keen on having us use it as another link.
 - There are two repeaters on the link that we might use. One is in Cedar Falls, the other in Chelsea. The CF machine has a better line of sight, but is far away. Chelsea is closer, but the terrain is less forgiving. We've only ever hit Chelsea reliably, and only from Mercy. We've not hit the system from the Linn EOC.
- As such, we're looking for a way to get into that system when required. One idea was some sort of local repeater that could crossband to the Chelsea system (it's a 75m machine).
- NA0IA had a plan for a downtown repeater that would be able to hit Chelsea. It could be used as a normal repeater otherwise. The Chelsea link would be activated only with a special PL tone or a DTMF code to prevent access to the link for normal use.
- WA6GFD pointed out that the plan, while nice, isn't required – we could make do with a simple crossband system if that would help the budget and schedule. (The Collins club is providing a lot of help here.)
- Some items that came up include:
 - SE USA is covered with D-STAR repeaters. WE all agreed the technology is wonderful, but as of now, only one manufacturer provides D-STAR radios. We will have to think through the implications of this before going with D-STAR.
 - WOIM noted that the equipment to link systems is not tied to one manufacturer, however.
 - We also discussed the possibility of a simple repeater (probably 75cm due to WMT) at Kirkwood that would link to the system through ICN.
 - KCC is willing to host a repeater, at least per preliminary conversations.
 - Access to ICN might be more difficult, however, so N0GUD is working out how the system works and how we might use the folks at the state EOC to help negotiate with KCC if we select that option.
 - N0GUD will talk to the IA repeater coordinator about using KC0OX's frequencies from his repeaters.
 - NA0IA said that if the system is a simple cross-band, we have space on the Collins tower we can use.
- SET planning
 - We have the grading criteria for the SET. N0GUD will review them this week. Ideas for the SET included:
 - Air disaster
 - Explosion with evacuation
 - Tornado at Kirkwood (causing damage to infrastructure near the EOC)
 - Tank leak with multiple evacuations
 - Biohazard (we have not done this before)
 - Extended power outage to bug out our capabilities on backup power.
- CRPD station updates
 - We may have funding for some further updates to the CRPD station.
 - Headset with boom mic and possibly a foot switch.
 - NA0IA suggested two headsets and a mixer/patch panel so multiple people could listen, one for logging, one for talking. The headsets are necessary to avoid disturbing the dispatchers on busy days.
 - Computer with printer.
 - This would have to come from the city somehow, as the IT staff will not allow an uncontrolled machine on the network.
 - Computer would be used for

email and reasonable
websurfing (ARES site for
procedures and data, APRS,
WX radar), so we don't need
something on the high end.
Should come with some sort of
office suite.

- UPS (should be standard for
everyone, really)
- Desk lamp. The overhead lights
bother the dispatchers.
- NOGUD and KOPAS will pursue this.
- General Items
 - No update on the 250.3 Hz tone issue.
 - We should add some sort of standard
operating guidelines for how NCS
should move a net to another
frequency.
 - This may not need to be a SOG so
much as just training materials on
the website. NOGUD will do this.
 - Someone asked about the “pets act of
2006.” Congress voted that pets should
be included in official evacuation
plans. This is a reaction to the
difficulties with stray animals during
Katrina. (Anyone who has property
downtown knows that many houses are
full of cats now!) The DAEC plan does
not include pets – in fact, it says to
leave them at home.
 - Note that DAEC is regulated, but
is not a government agency, and
thus may not fall under the act.
 - Also, a DAEC evacuation would be
due to radiation, not destruction of
infrastructure. As such, leaving a
pet behind with food and water
would work out better than for a
flood or hurricane, as the pets
would remain safely enclosed.
 - NOGUD will talk to the DAEC
representative at the next EMA
event to see if there will be any
changes, however.
 - The FCC has mandated that station and
local public service agencies need to
switch to narrow bandwidth
communications by 2013. This is more
about channel spacing than the signals
themselves. This does not affect

amateur radio, but does mean that there
will be changes to public service
systems soon.

Submitted by NOGUD

From the Editor's Desk (W0MRZ):

I'd like to remind everyone that the 'once a year' Iowa
QSO Party will be coming up on 16 October 2010 and
details/rules for this QSO Party can be found on
www.wa0dx.org.

In order to whet your appetite for his upcoming talk at
the next meeting, Rod Blocksome has provided the
following 'food for thought':

Ye Olde Ham Quiz

By

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

While researching material for this month's CVARC
program “50-years of Amateur Radio (as I saw it)”, I
started thinking about some of the goofy ham lingo
that was in vogue over the years. So I put together the
following multiple choice quiz which newer hams
may chuckle over and older hams feel a twinge of
nostalgia. See if you can identify the correct
definition for each ham term:

Ham Term	Possible Definitions
807	A. A popular RF tube in 1960 B. A bottle of beer
Lid	A. A cap on a jar B. A poor operator
Pink Ticket	A. A free movie pass B. An FCC notice of a rule violation
Wet Noodle	A. Spaghetti dinner component B. A typical novice station vertical antenna
Harmonics	A. Spurious frequencies from your transmitter B. Children of hams
Sky Hook	A. On a crane B. Your antenna support
Elmer	A. Glue B. Your ham mentor (irregardless of his real name)
Cans	A. Containers for beans initially – then nuts and bolts B. Headphones
Sparks	A. Something to avoid in your transmitter B. Ship's radio operator (irregardless of his real name)
Rock Bound	A. Dinosaur fossil B. Newly upgraded Novice without a VFO
Bug	A. Insect B. Semi-automatic key
Pump Handle	A. Part of a water well B. Army Surplus CW key
Brass-Pounder	A. Metallurgy B. CW op
Handle	A. Get a grip on things B. Your name
Ticket	A. Paperwork from the cops B. Your ham license
Lima-Lima	A. Peruvian capital city B. Land-line (telephone)
Donald Duck	A. Disney character with speech impediment B. SSB on an AM receiver
The Big Switch	A. House main circuit breaker

	B. The on/off switch on the rig
Modulate a Pillow	A. Bedroom technology B. Get off the air and go to sleep
Chicken Bandits	A. Poultry thieves B. Operators on 27 MHz
Rag Chewer	A. Your dog's pastime B. Ham who becomes locked up in transmit mode
California Kilowatt	A. Measurement of electrical power in the state B. Ham transmitters in excess of the legal limit
Full Gallon	A. Four quarts B. A 1,000 Watt transmitter
Grief Kit	A. Kleenex B. Heath-kit
Big Bottles	A. Milk used to come in these B. Large glass transmitting tubes

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 or TEL: 319-653-2591.

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 =====

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