



BANDSPREAD September 2010



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

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Thursday, September 9, 2010 @ 7:30 PM

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

*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 is

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, 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.

AUGUST 2010 CVARC BOARD MINUTES

The August 2010 Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors' meeting was held August 12, 2010 at the Kenwood United Methodist Church. President WA6GFD called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm. Others in attendance were N0XZL, KC0PON, NA0IA, W0HKR, WA0KHH, AC0OQ and KD0JCX.

WA0KHH reported that 20 candidates tested at Summerfest – 4 earned a technician license, 2 earned a general license, 5 upgraded to general, and 1 upgraded from general to extra. The next test session at Vinton will be September 23, and a session will be held in Cedar Rapids in the late fall.

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

W0HKR reported that the next events are the St. Jude's 5K/10K run/walk on August 14 beginning at 8 AM. Volunteers should meet at Xavier at 6:45, and the race should take 2 to 3 hours. August 22 is the long Pigman and 12 volunteers are still needed. There will be a picnic on Saturday, August 21 for club members and all who have volunteered this year. A briefing will be held at 4:00 and T shirts and maps will be distributed, and those volunteers can go directly to their posts on Sunday. Those who can't attend the picnic will need to report to the North pavilion at 6:45 Sunday morning before proceeding to their station.

KC0PON reported that the checking account balance was \$3,717.18. Net profit from Summerfest was \$1,442.34, less approximately \$40 for sales tax on the raffle tickets. There

were 565 paid attendees and 56 rented tables.

N0XZL discussed the proposed contract with the Teamsters to rent the hall for next year's Hamfest. NA0IA moved, W0HKR seconded and the Board approved a motion to sign the contract to rent the hall for next year.

NA0IA said that there will be a general license class starting mid September, with the location to be determined. An exam session will be held the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

WA6GFD noted that we were approached to consider holding the division ARRL convention in conjunction with Summerfest next year, and some discussion followed. Attendance at this year's Hamfest was up from last year. The vendors were very appreciative of the help unloading and reloading their merchandise. Thanks also to the kitchen help. A new Hamfest chair is needed for next year.

A general discussion followed on an updated membership list, Bandspread distribution, the Reflector and the CVARC website.

N0XZL moved, W0HKR seconded and the Board unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted by KD0JCX, Secretary

AUGUST 2010 CVARC MEETING MINUTES

The August 2010 general membership meeting was held Thursday, August 12, 2010 in the Kenwood United Methodist Church.

The formal meeting was opened at 7:30 PM by President Steve Jones, WA6GFD, with all 53 members and guests introducing themselves.

WA0FBX moved to approve the minutes for the June meeting. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously by those present.

W0IM moved to approve the minutes for the July meeting. KD0EBH seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously by those present.

Rick, N0XZL reported that Summerfest went well, with a lot of hard work. There were 565 paid attendees. WA6GFD noted that there were many positive comments from the vendors. The group gave a round of applause to those who worked to make Summerfest a success.

Darrel, WA0KHH reported that 20 candidates tested at Summerfest – 4 earned a technician license, 2 earned a general license, 5 upgraded to general, and 1 upgraded from general to extra. Thanks to all the examiners who helped with the testing.

Dennis, KC0PON reported that the checking account balance was \$3,717.18. Net profit from Summerfest was \$1,442.34, less approximately \$40 for sales tax on the raffle tickets.

Steve, NAOIA said that there will be a general license class starting mid September, either here at the church or at Rockwell. An exam session will be held the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Ken, W0HKR reported that the next events are the St. Jude's 5K/10K run/walk on August 14 beginning at 8 AM. Two volunteers are still needed. Volunteers should meet at Xavier at 6:45, and the race should be done by 10:30. August 22 is the long Pigman and 12 volunteers are still needed. If you can work only part of the day, we'll find a spot. Late afternoon is more critical for the runners, who are on the third leg of the triathlon. There will be a picnic on Saturday, August 21 for all who have volunteered this year and members. A briefing will be held at 4:00 and T shirts and maps will be distributed, and those volunteers can go directly to their posts on Sunday. Those who can't attend the picnic will need to report to the north pavilion at 6:45 Sunday morning before proceeding to their station.

A request was made for an update on the repeater repair. The repeater operated on the south site only for most of the week, now is on dual. A new controller will be installed, bequeathed by KC0OX. Please remember that the CVARC repeater does not require a tone – the 250.3 tone is for emergency alert only.

The evening's presentation was postponed due to excessive heat.

NAOIA moved, K0AL seconded and those present unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the formal meeting at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted by KD0JCX, Secretary

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The year seems to be passing so quickly as I look back and realize that Field Day, the Hamfest and the Pigman Long event is behind us. Soon we will be raking those leaves and bundling up against the cool breezes (not necessarily a bad thing <smile>). Speaking of the Pigman, I want to thank Ken, W0HKR for the outstanding job he did of organizing this year's event and also all of you who came out to help and assist with this event.

One of the things that was done differently this year was to hold a meeting the Saturday afternoon to hold a briefing on the event and to have a little social picnic at the same time.

The club used to have a summer picnic but because of schedules and other activities, it has sort of gone by the wayside. A suggestion was made that perhaps, we should look at hosting a picnic each year the day before the long Pigman. It sounds like a great idea. Think about this and we will gather some feedback at the upcoming meeting.

I want to thank everyone for their patience with the temporary meeting location upstairs in the church last month. After looking at some previous notes I had taken, it is very probable that the Church Staff mentioned the garage sale activities several months ago and because it was so far away, I didn't make a specific note to myself to find another location for that meeting. I apologize for my apparent slip. Because of the great programs and events that we have been having, the attendance at our meetings has grown to the point that we can not comfortably move into the other rooms in the church, so it is possible we might need to search for an alternate meeting location for selected nights in the future. If you know of an alternate location, that might be available on short notice, please let myself or one of the other members of the Board of Directors know.

For those that maybe haven't heard, Al K0VM, has done some work on the 146.745 repeater and has recently installed a new controller. The controller was donated to the club by Ron Breitwisch, KC0OX (SK). For those new members, Ron served many years as the Club's Emergency Preparedness Director. With the new controller, we hope to be able to put up voice messages reminding club members of upcoming events or activities. In addition, I would like to thank Al for all of his long years of hard work in maintaining and keeping the .745 repeater up to date. In the 10 years, that I have lived in Cedar Rapids, I can only remember once that the repeater was off the air for more than a few hours. The users of a repeater system are often unaware of the number of hours it sometimes takes to keep a repeater system going and judging by the performance and availability, Al is continuing to do a fantastic job.

Look forward to seeing you at the September meeting on 9th of September.

Steve Jones, WA6GFD

Minutes for 05 August 2010 ARES planning committee

- Introductions
 - Attending are W0IM, NA0IA, WA0FBX, KB0KW, KD0HF, WA6GFD, KA0IES, KF0VF, KC0SMK
- Review of past month's activities
 - Storm Events notes here.
 - One major event. Net discipline was down a bit, but not anything NCS could not handle.
 - Only real issue was one station that had no audio – sounded like either someone on a handheld not hitting the repeater well, or a distant station not overcoming conditions. NCS eventually politely asked the station to remain off the frequency for the duration, which happened.
 - We need to make sure that people understand that, even though they can hear the repeater well, it might not be able to hear them.
 - Independence Day Net
 - Overall, things went very well. This was helped by the weather, which reduced the number of people downtown significantly.
 - The new radio installation at CRPD worked quite well. The only major issue was that plugging in the external speaker apparently removes volume control from the radio's alert beep. This disturbed dispatch, so we pulled the external speaker and all was well. We'll need to re-examine the manual to see if this is expected behavior. (Other Kenwoods have not displayed this problem.)
 - Net discipline was good.
- Radio Installation Test Project
 - We are negotiating with the hospitals for the best time to test. We may have to aim for a weekday evening rather than during the day.
 - This may make things harder at the public service installations.
 - It may well increase participant availability, though.
 - Current plan is both hospitals, EMA, CRPD, Collins, and the Sheriff's office. The latter will have to include some pre-test line testing, as we haven't been able to confirm that the antenna lines are still functional since they moved back in.
- ACTION: N0GUD to poll EMA for evening/weekend access for these tests.
- Radar Issues
 - The new fan for the amplifier is installed, but WA6GFD says it needs a cage to keep it safe and less prone to wander off.
 - The new antenna is on order, but not in yet. 9 dB gain over a dipole (previous antenna we 3 dB).
 - The new amplifier is in. We'll get it installed when everything else is ready to go, so we only have to get up on the roof once. The amplifier is 10 → 100 W only, and the current transmitter will only go to 5 W. As such, we may need to daisy-chain amplifiers in order to drive the new one. This should not be a major issue.
 - There is a break in the cable sheath and a few other problems with the current run to the antenna. The cable needs to be a priority, as none of the equipment matters much with a poor connection to the antenna.
 - Long-term (not part of the current effort), we probably need to move the antenna away from the radome. This will require working with Collins facilities.
- Database Updates
 - WA6GFD reports he is working on updating the ARES database.
 - This will include a purge of stations no longer in the area.
 - WA6GFD and N0GUD will work out a policy for when membership should be dropped. Agreed that for now, we'll work on a two-year cycle similar to WX spotter training.
- 250.3 Hz emergency tone
 - Recently, some stations have been using the CVARC machine with the 250.3 Hz tone on for general QSOs. This currently appears to be tied to a specific geographical area.
 - Since the idea behind the tone is not clear, and the CVARC machine is one of the few remaining that does not require a tone, we need to make sure word gets out as to the purpose of the tone.
 - KI0JP will pass this on to the Johnson net. KF0VF will pass to the other area nets.
 - For the Linn ARES net, we'll use the first week's preamble for the month of August to make sure everyone hears it. (This preamble addresses the tone.)
 - NA0IA asked if some other tone could be used.
 - Yes, but the range is limited. The filter in the repeater doesn't work well on the higher tones, so the two highest essentially

come through unfiltered. This is why we chose 250.3 originally.

- Doing so will confuse people, and doesn't actually address the problem – it will likely come up with the new tone eventually.

- General Net Issues

- At the last Sunday net, the CVARC repeater failed somehow (appeared to be a stuck mic of some sort), so the net, per protocol, moved to 145.15.
- Not everyone was able to do so, because either a) they didn't have the required 192.8 Hz tone programmed in, or b) they didn't have the repeater in the radio at all.
- As such, we need to make sure we are advising our newer hams better on what to program, and how to program a radio if we are familiar with the model.
- ACTION: N0GUD to write a Bandspread article on what frequencies to program, and the basics of the use of tone. This may also become a CVARC presentation.
- ACTION: WA6GFD and N0GUD to see if local repeater trustees will allow the tone filter to be killed during emergencies so those without can hit the machine.

- Jones County Flooding (Dam Break on Maquoketa River)

- Jones ARES was not requested by emergency responders.
- This was not considered a communications emergency, so EMA did not call.
 - Floods generally do not require rapid deployment of communications.
- In addition, ARES was used in the past to relay river readings. These are now handled automatically with new equipment.

- Jones County Repeaters

- The plot has thickened regarding the 39 repeater. The tower comes down at the receive site 1 September.
- WA9ENA has offered a temporary receive site on land he owns. If that doesn't work out, it will go to a site in Viola. Each will affect the ability for Linn hams to hit the repeater.
- There is a new issue with the transmit site as well. Access to the facility (which is shared with public service) can only be granted if a technician from Radio Communications, Inc., is present. This is a new rule from the E911 commission. It will run about \$100 per call. The Jones group is talking to the E911 commission about it now.

- General Net News

- The ICAN net in Benton/Iowa is on hiatus.

- The Northeast Iowa net has moved to the Olwein repeater.
- Appropriate changes to the Linn net script will be made.

- CVARC repeater traffic

- We discussed recent traffic on local repeaters that, while within regulations, probably didn't present amateur radio in a good light.
- People need to be aware that the general public and most public service agencies have scanners (if not actual ham equipment in the room), and they can hear what we say. In fact, some scanners come with CVARC's machine pre-programmed due to storm spotting.

Submitted by N0GUD

K-12 CORNER

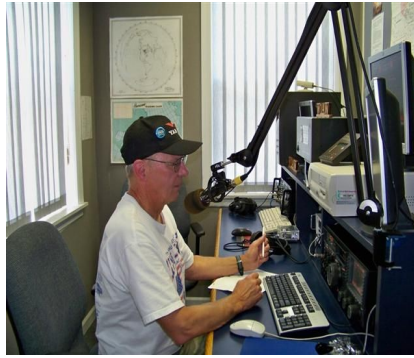
Just a short note, as school starts up, to remember that the ARRL Foundation offers a number of scholarships for hams going to college. The application period for these scholarships opens on 1 October and runs to 1 February. There is a single form (in addition to standard financial aid forms) that students must fill out in order to apply. Students should read the descriptions of each scholarship, since a scholarship may be limited to students holding a particular license class, from a particular region of the country, or planning to major in a certain field. More information is available on the ARRL web site here: <http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-descriptions>.

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

From the Editor's Desk....

Dave Maley, WA0ZZG, recently forwarded me a brief write-up which we want to share with you:



Ham's Delight at ARRL
by
Kenneth D. Gould, WA0SLU

Inspired over the years by the writings of ARRL staff members in QST magazine particularly those of the late Lew McCoy, W1ICP, I have had a desire to visit ARRL Headquarters. This desire became a reality when my wife, Sylvia, and I decided to travel east for a camping adventure at Acadia National Park in Maine with a stop along the way at Newington, Connecticut.

Arriving at the ARRL administrative building around 11 AM the morning of August 10, we were greeted by our volunteer guide Charles "Skip" Colton, W1FTE. Since Skip would finish his shift at noon and the W1AW building would shut down over the noon hour, Skip advised getting on the air immediately for a QSO or two on 17 meters and suggested an afternoon session on 20 meters.

Marginal band conditions on 17 meters made reception difficult, but after several CQs I was able to pull out of the QRN a mobile station in England; Mike, G1MYH in Weston Super Mare, England.

After lunch, we returned to the W1AW building for a SSB session this time on 20 meters. Our guide for the afternoon was Grant Warner, AA1T. He was a brilliant and enthusiastic host who provided us with a wealth of information about ARRL and radio history in general.

Operating the FTDX-9000 transceiver in the "contest" studio was a pleasure. Atmospherics on 20 meters were considerably better than on 17 meters. As a result, I was able to make contacts with Ore, CO5LC in Santa Clara, Cuba and Miran, S500 in Slovenia. Sylvia took some great pictures of the W1AW station and of me at the controls. What a blast!

For those of you planning a trip to ARRL, the tour of the administrative building is a must. With a continuous dialogue of ARRL and communications history, Grant guided us through the nerve center of the League. Of particular interest was the outgoing QSL Bureau, the Education Department, the ARRL lab and the Contest and Awards area. Kudos to the lab technician who took the time to track down a source on the internet for purchasing Ben Stearns' book Arthur Collins, Radio Wizard.

So, next time you think about taking a trip to ARRL headquarters, do it. It is well worth the trip to see the League in action.

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 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 CVMARC 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: _____