



# BANDBITS



The official publication of the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club  
An ARRL Special Services Club

Volume 25, Number 3

March 2010

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's March and time to prepare for bad weather. Ensure your go kits and emergency kits are in full supply. We'll be having a basic weather spotter class in place of our March Club meeting so if you need a refresher, or are curious about weather spotting the presentation by the National Weather Service should be of interest. Field day plans are well underway and we need volunteers for various areas, see Craig K9CT to ask how you can help! See you all at the meeting.

Anthony Lawson K9ADL

## WIAW News: March W1AW/West Coast Qualifying Run Schedule

The March schedules for the W1AW and West Coast Qualifying Runs were inadvertently left out of the March issue of QST. The March schedules for W1AW are as follows: Friday, March 5 at 10 PM EST (Saturday, March 6 at 0300 UTC) for 10-25 WPM and Tuesday, March 16 at 7 PM EDT (2300 UTC) for 10-40 WPM. The West Coast Qualifying run will be transmitted by station K6KPH on Saturday, March 13 at 2 PM PDT (2200 UTC) for 10-35 WPM. The run will be transmitted simultaneously on 3581.5, 7047.5, 14047.5, 18097.5 and 21067.5 kHz.

*Taken from ARRL Letter dated 2-25-2010*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Presidents Message, PAARC Events
2	Club Information, Officers, Net Report
3	Net Control Reports and ARRL Articles
4	Board and Club Meeting Minutes, Solar Update
5	Article, Field Day Hamfests, and Quotes
6	Buy, Sell or Trade
7	
8	

## PAARC EVENTS

### PAARC MEETS AT RED CROSS

The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club meets at the American Red Cross Chapter House, 311 West John Gwynn Jr. Avenue between Hightower and Kumpf Blvd. in Peoria, Illinois. The meetings are held on the second Friday of each month.

### Upcoming Events

**Mar 5 –PAARC Board Meeting, Red Cross Chapter House 6:00pm**

**Mar 12 –PAARC Meeting 6:30pm Red Cross Chapter House.**

**Mar 12 – Program: Weather Spotter Class – Lincoln Weather Center**

### Refreshment Schedule

**Mar. 12 – Jim Williams, N9HHU**

**Apr. 9 – “OPEN”**

## This Week on the Radio

This week, look for the [ARRL International DX Contest \(SSB\)](#) on March 6-7. The Wake-Up! QRP Sprint is March 6 and the DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest is March 7. The CLARA HF Contest is March 9-10 (continuing on March 13-14) and the CWops Mini-CWT Test is March 10-11. Next week, the Feld Hell Sprint is March 13. The RSGB Commonwealth Contest, the Elecraft QSO Party and the Idaho QSO Party are March 13-14. The North American Sprint (RTTY) and the SKCC Weekend Sprint are March 14. The Wisconsin QSO Party is March 14-15 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is March 18. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the [ARRL Contest Branch page](#), the [ARRL Contest Update](#) and the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the [ARRL Special Event Station Web page](#). *From ARRL Letter dated March 4, 2010*

## W.A.S. CERTIFICATION

The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club is a special Services Club and as such we are able to certify those Amateur Radio Operators who have completed Worked All States. If you would like your cards checked please contact Jim Williams N9HHU at a club meeting for at his e-mail address of [n9hhu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n9hhu@sbcglobal.net).

You must be a member of ARRL to participate in the W.A.S. Certification. Jim has the necessary form to complete either as single mode or mixed states. When you have completed the form simply contact Jim and he will arrange to meet with you and verify your cards. He will then sign the form. You will then mail the form to ARRL along with your fee of \$10.

### The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club

The club was originally chartered as the Peoria Radio Club on May 2, 1919. Please address all correspondences to:

**The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club**

**P.O. Box 3508**

**Peoria, IL 61612-3508**

Voice Mail at (309) 692-3378 E-mail [w9uvi@arrl.net](mailto:w9uvi@arrl.net)

Web Page – <http://www.w9uvi.org/>

### Club Officers

President	Anthony Lawson, K9ADL
Vice President	Merle Joiner, KB9VQH
Secretary	Mark Riggio, K9MPR
Treasurer	Ron Morgan, KB9NW
Directors	Jim, Williams, N9HHU Fritz Bock, WD9FMB
Trustee	Bob Bush, W9WTF

### Membership Information

Membership in the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club is available to any licensed amateur and is administered as follows:

**Full Membership:** \$25 per calendar year. Ages 18 and under, or 65 and older are \$20 per calendar year.

**Family Membership:** Full membership for first member and \$10 for each additional member in same household.

**Associate Membership:** \$15 per calendar year for out of area amateurs who are interested only in occasional participation.

**Honorary Life Memberships:** are free and are awarded by a vote of the general membership after recommendations from the Board of Directors.

### BANDBITS Policy

BANDBITS is the official publication of the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club and is distributed to all members in good standing, and to other interested parties. Permission is granted to reprint from BANDBITS provided that credit is given to the original author, if listed, and that BANDBITS is identified as the source of the material.

Opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the author and may or may not reflect those of BANDBITS or the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club. BANDBITS reserves the right to edit any copy, and to print or refuse to print any contribution.

Articles are welcome and can be sent to:  
 BANDBITS Editor – Cliff Shoemaker- W9OI  
 P.O. Box 3508 Peoria, IL 61612-3508 or via E-mail at [w9oi@arrl.net](mailto:w9oi@arrl.net)

Articles for BANDBITS must be received by the Monday following the club meeting for inclusion in the next issue.

### Club Net/Newsline

The club holds a weekly net on Sunday Evening at 8:30 PM Local Time on the 147.075 repeater. All Amateurs with 2 meter privileges are invited to check in. Amateur Radio Newsline will be heard after the Net.

### Repeaters

The PAARC operates three 2 meter repeaters, which are open for all amateurs with 2 meter privileges. The 146.250 (input)/146.850 (output) repeater is located at the Peoria City EOC on Grandview Drive. The repeater uses a 103.5 Hz output tone for CTCSS squelch control.

The 147.675 (input)/147.075 (output) repeater is located on the Rock-106 tower in East Peoria. This repeater is used for the Sunday night net. This repeater uses a 103.5 Hz input tone for CTCSS squelch control.

The W9PIA D-Star 144.505 (input)/145.105 (output) repeater is located on the Rock-106 tower.

### Club Net Report – By Steve Schlosser, KB9VIU

The Sunday Night Net check-in results for the month are shown in the table below,

Feb 7	Feb 14	Feb 21	Feb 28	Total
19	--	25	--	44

Highlights from the check-ins

**Feb 7:**

**N9HHU, Jim** reported in first with traffic reminding all of the upcoming monthly club meeting on Fri. the 12th.

**KC9LDH, Curt** reported that he had been busy installing a new version of Linux on his computers and plans using the X-aster program for APRS. Curt re-checked a bit later using a different antenna, a home-brew model.

**K9ADL, Anthony** reported that his HF station is currently down at his home location and that he got in on a 6 meter opening recently.

**N9WTF, Dan** reported that he made a 15 meter contact over the weekend into Spain and that he made some contacts in the N.M. Qso Party as well.

**W9KCB, Al** reported that he had attended the gun show in E. Peoria over the weekend and that he was waiting for warmer weather to set in so he can work on his airplane.

**KC0TOT, Seth** checked in reporting that he and **Jaqui, KD0EKA** had gone to St. Louis for the hamfest and got back late Sunday. He stated that it was a good fest, although not as good as some of the previous year's events; MFJ was a "no show". He also reported finding an ATV amplifier for \$100 and bought a couple of Bird watt meters as well.

Also checked in were; N9NEW, N9SJZ, KC9ALV, KA9JHL, N9FLS, N9HHU, WX9SS, W9WTF KB9ATO, KC9FWR, KC9QVV, KB9TNZ, W9SNG and KD0EKA. KC9QYB, Paul conducted the net; we had 19 check-ins and the net closing time was not recorded due to error. AR Newsline was aired.

**Feb 14:**

No report submitted

**Feb 21:**

**W9WTF, Bob** was first with traffic reporting that he had the first testing session after taking over the VE team and that

there was a large group that turned out to take exams. There were 3 new General class licensees and he thanked AA9VT, K9MPR, K9GWL and W9WGN for their assistance.

**N9HHU, Jim** was next reporting that the monthly ARES meeting was scheduled for Thursday the 25th and that "Severe Weather Preparedness Week begins on March first this year and that there would be a statewide tornado drill on Tuesday the 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

**KC9QYB, Paul** reported that he had been monitoring 10 meters but had not heard very much lately, although he did try to make contact with a station in zone 7.

**KB9ZRG, Michael** reported that the Woodford Co. Emergency Management will host a basic weather spotter training session on March 22nd at the Woodford E.O.C.

**KD0EKA, Jaqui** reported that she had recently worked a station in Cuba from the mobile and that she had been working a bit at the Bradley University radio room; everything is functional there except 15 meters.

**KB9TNZ, John** reported that there will be a basic weather spotter training session at the March club meeting on the 12th.

**KC0TOT, Seth** reported that he had swapped the 11 meter antenna on his work tractor with a 40 meter hamstick. He had made some contacts into Pa. and Fl. and also worked into Cuba twice with 250mW of power.

**KG9PH, Robin** checked in reporting that he had been out of operation for a while; his license had expired and he finally got it renewed.

Also checked in were; WX9JC, N9FLS, KB9ATO, W9KCB, KA9JHL, KC9FWR, K9GWL, KC9HGI, KC9QVV, KC9LDH, W9GHO, KB9PW, N9SJZ, KA9YSE, N9NEW, KB9KBC and KB9FPY. We had 25 check-ins and the net closed at 9:35 p.m. local time

**Feb 28:**

No report submitted

## Launch of New ARRL Web Site Delayed to "Get it Right"

After meeting with ARRL staff on February 23 -- two days before the new ARRL Web site was to launch -- ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, made the decision to delay the unveiling of the Web site until late March. "Work on the new ARRL Web site has progressed at a frantic pace but there are still some potential 'bugs' that could affect members. We need to be sure we get it right," Kramer said. "Our members' security, information and ability to actually *use* of all the options on the new site outweigh any rush to meet an artificial deadline. It's just good customer service."

The new Web site -- which will contain the online store, class registrations, audio, video, DXCC information, contest data, individualized member options and other 21st century opportunities for members -- is one of the largest technology upgrade activities that ARRL and Fathom, the company programming the site, have ever undertaken. "Reviewers

*Continued next column*

## New ARRL Web Site, cont'd

have been unanimously impressed and are helping make sure we create the easiest, most enjoyable online experience possible," Kramer explained.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, the current ARRL Web site is not only used by ARRL members, but is a prime reference source for engineers, hams and wireless technicians around the world, making it the premier place to find information about Amateur Radio, its activities and the sciences behind it. "The Web is our main face to the world, and the new Web site will be fantastic," he said. "Although we all regret the delay, I believe our members will appreciate our diligence about the ease of use, security and navigation for the new site."

*Taken from ARRL Letter dated Feb 25, 2010*

## Amateur Radio Direction Finding: Foxes, Fitness and Fun in 2010

*By ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV*

"Geeks in the woods!" That's how Jay Hennigan, WB6RDV, of Goleta, California, describes Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF). Several times a year, Jay gets together with friends for a session of this international Amateur Radio sport -- also called foxtailing and radio-orienteering. As they set out, five 2 meter "foxes" are somewhere in the woods, transmitting for one minute each in sequence. Armed with a special ARDF set or just a handheld transceiver with a measuring-tape Yagi and attenuator, they see how fast they can run or walk from the start to each transmitter in optimum order and then back to the start, or perhaps to a separate finish point. To help them navigate, they carry compasses and special orienteering maps, but they aren't allowed to have GPS displays or other high-tech navigation aids. Standardized ARDF courses provide a good test of equipment performance and hunter skill. It's friendly competition combined with great exercise. It attracts "techies" and "jocks" of all ages who don't need a ham license to get started. And for some, it leads to medals at national and international competitions.

*Taken from ARRL Letter dated Feb 25, 2010*

**PAARC Board Meeting Feb 5, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Anthony Lawson at 7:00 PM. Members present: Anthony Lawson, Merle Joiner, Jim Hornbaker, Fritz Bock, Mark Riggio, Cliff Shoemaker, Jim Williams and Ron Morgan (via Skype).

The minutes of January's Board meeting were read and approved.

Old Business: Anthony stated that the raffle paperwork had been completed and that he thought the Field Day site would be free of charge, but was working on verification of that fact. Fritz reported that the EEPROM hadn't yet been ordered but would be next week; he estimated the cost to now be around \$33.00. He also advised that we have a good Tech class with 8 members. The new owners of the repeater tower have gotten our earlier letter and their board is considering our case but no firm decision has yet been made. The last three month's utility bill for the tower site has averaged around \$180.00, as this may be one of the fees the club could encounter with the new tower owners. Fritz requested copies of the repeater licenses so he can provide them to Clear Talk Communications to prove our ownership; the Club will likely have to enter into a contract with them in order to nail down our legal status on the tower.

New Business: Cliff presented a bill from January Bandbits for payment, and Fritz questioned whether club dues can still be paid via PayPal; no one was certain.

Anthony and the board asked Ron whether any changes had been made to the budget and none have happened; the Board intends to present the budget to the membership at the regular February meeting.

Fritz noted that the NWS basic spotter course has been scheduled for the regular March club meeting. Jim pointed out that no advanced spotter courses will be offered in Illinois by NWS as of today.

A short discussion regarding the current status of Illinois RACES followed. Merle Joiner volunteered to provide refreshments for the February meeting; Jim Williams will do so in March.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riggio – K9MPR  
Secretary

**PAARC Regular Meeting – Feb 12, 2010**

Meeting called to order by President Anthony Lawson at 7:02 PM. The usual introductions were conducted. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as published in BandBits. Mark Riggio announced that several members had contacted him who had paid to renew their membership but still received BandBits by mail advising them to renew. A list was taken of members in this position; their renewals will be researched and updated accordingly.

Ron Morgan gave the Treasurer's report via Skype audio & video from Florida. The 2010 Budget was once again presented with member review. In anticipation of an income shortfall due to the likelihood of rental payments for the repeater tower and repeater maintenance and upgrades, a price increase for Superfest tickets was discussed.

*Continued next column*

**Regular Meeting Minutes, Cont'd**

Also, Bob Bush suggested that the Club might want to contact amateurs who are heavy repeater users, asking them to join the Club in order to support future repeater operations. The ticket price increase decision was postponed for one month; the Budget was voted tentative approval, subject to further adjustment by the Board next month when more information regarding rental costs may be available. Bob Bush reported the 85 repeater remains down; Fritz Bock will be ordering the EEPROM and once obtained, the machine can be brought back up again.

The business portion of the meeting ended at 7:30 with a refreshment break.

Following the break, John Gillespie made a presentation requesting volunteer sign up to provide communication support for the Pekin Community High School Show Choir event on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Radio operators will be needed for both the 7:00 AM-noon and 5:00-11:00 PM shifts, primarily to provide traffic control and parking assistance at Pekin High. A volunteer sheet was circulated.

Bob Bush conducted a class on dipole construction, providing a hands-on demonstration. Jim Williams reminded everyone that next month's meeting will be the NWS Basic Weather Spotter class, beginning at 6:30 PM and that no advanced Spotter classes will occur this year. Also, the ARES meeting will be on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Germantown Hills Fire Department. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Riggio – K9MPR  
Secretary

**Solar Update**

Tad "[The Sun shines hot and the wind blows cold](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: The sunspots just keep coming: Two new sunspot groups appeared on March 1, numbered 1052 and 1053. This brings the total number of sunspot groups appearing over the last month at 11. Looking at our 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers, the latest for December-January-February is 22.4, for the period centered on January. The 3-month moving averages for the periods centered on July through January were 4, 4, 4.64, 7.1, 10.16, 15.15 and 22.4. The average sunspot number for the month of February was 31, up from 21.3 for January and 15.7 for December. The February average being 8.6 points higher than the trailing three month average (22.4) is a good trend. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, March 5, including more news from happy radio amateurs commenting on improved conditions on the higher part of the HF spectrum. The vernal equinox occurs in a little over two weeks, ushering in good spring conditions. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Charles Dickens' [Great Expectations](#).

*Taken from ARRL Letter dated March 4, 2010*

**All PAARC members,**

The club is collecting older unused radios to loan out to those members who cannot afford one. There are some younger members who aren't old enough to get jobs but don't want to ask their parents to buy them a brand new base radio. I'm sure that there are many radios collecting dust in garages and closets out there. Consider donating them to PAARC so that we can put them into the hands of a new HAM to get them on the air! If you have something just lying around and want to donate it, bring it to the next club meeting or contact Merle KB9VQH or Bob W9WTF to pick them up.

73 - Bob W9WTF  
Trustee PAARC

**QUOTES FOR THE MONTH**

Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret.

--Ambrose Bierce

Our best friends and our worst enemies are our thoughts. A thought can do use moe good than a doctor or a banker or a faithful friend. It can also do us more harm than a brick.

-- Frank Crane

Man does not simply exist, but always decides what his existence will be, what he will become in the next moment.

-- Viktor Frankl

**ARRL Field Day : 2010 Field Day Packets  
Now Available**

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now [available for download](#) and include the complete rules (including changes for 2010), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.

**ARES MEETING SCHEDULE**

**March 25 "Program to be Determined"**

**Location: Germantown Hills Fire Department 7:00pm.  
All amateurs are welcome.**

**April 22 "Program to be Determined"**

**May 27 "Program to be Determined"**

**HAMFESTS**

Here's what the ARRL website presently has for hamfests in May within 250 miles of Peoria. Not all fests are posted, or posted in a timely manner on this website, so it may be an incomplete list.

- Mar 6, Dugger ARC Dugger, IN  
Dugger Park Community Building  
Contact: Kyle Shipman, KB9ZGN  
Phone: 812-648-2487  
Email: kb9zgn@sbcglobal.net
- Mar 7, Sterling-Rock Falls ARS Sterling, IL  
Challand Middle School  
Contact: Paula Portner, KC9FQK  
Phone: 815-284-5650  
Email: [pportner@comcast.net](mailto:pportner@comcast.net)
- Mar 13, Wabash Valley ARA Terre Haute, IN  
Contact: Nick Vinardi, N9WG Nat'l Guard  
Phone: 812-870-9459 Armory  
Email: [n9wg@hotmail.com](mailto:n9wg@hotmail.com)
- Mar 13, 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Amateur Elquipment Auction  
Eau Claire ARC Eau Claire, WI  
Contact: Jiim Staatzs, KI9H Grace Lutheran  
Phone: 715-415-1150 Church  
Email: ki9h@arrl.net
- Mar 14 TriCounty ARC (W9MQB) Jefferson, WI  
Jefferson County Fairgrounds Comm. Ctr.  
Contact: Paul Marowsky, KD9PM  
Phone: 920-674-4968  
Email: [hamfest@w9mqb.org](mailto:hamfest@w9mqb.org)
- Mar 27 Columbus Amateur Radio Club Columbus, IN  
Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds  
Contact: Marion Winterberg, WD9HTN  
Phone: 812-342-4670  
Email: [carc\\_in@bcremc.net](mailto:carc_in@bcremc.net)
- Apr 9-10 16<sup>th</sup> Annual AES Superfest Milwaukee, WI  
Amateur Electronic Supply 5710 W. Good  
Contact: Ray Grenier, K9KHW Hope Road  
Phone: 414-375-1162  
Email rayk9khw@aol.com
- Apr 17 Madison Hamfest & Computer Fair Stoughton, WI  
Madison Area Repeater Assoc. Mandt Center  
Contact: Paul Toussaint, N9VWH 400 Mandt  
Phone: 608-205-1996 Parkway  
Email: [w9hsy@execpc.com](mailto:w9hsy@execpc.com)
- Apr 18 AAROFest 2010 Galva, IL  
Area Amateur Radio Operators Galva High School  
Contact: Bill Anderson, WA9BA 1020 N. Center  
Phone: 309-932-3023 Avenue  
Email: wa9ba@arrl.net

**Buy/Sell/Trade**

Non-Commercial Ads from Club members pertaining to Amateur Radio will be printed free of charge. Each ad will run for one issue and can be continued by contacting the editor. Material may be sent to:

BANDBITS Editor  
P.O. Box 3508  
Peoria, IL 61612-3508  
Or via E-mail to [w9uvi@arrl.net](mailto:w9uvi@arrl.net)

**AREA FCC EXAMS****Morton:**

FCC Amateur Radio Exams are held at the Morton Public Library, 315 West Pershing at 12:00 noon the third Saturday of even numbered months or as noted below. Apr. 17, Jun. 19, Aug. 21, Sep (Superfest), Oct. 16, and Dec. 18. If no one is there at that time the examiners will leave as they are all volunteers. Walk-ins are welcome. Please bring your original Radio License (if any) and a copy, and the original and a copy of any of any Certificate of Completion (CSCE) not already acted upon by the FCC. Copies are needed to send with your license application. Fee for 2010 is \$15.00. You will also need identification such as a Driver's License, and a Social Security Number. Contact Bob Bush W9WTF at [tigrbob@gmail.com](mailto:tigrbob@gmail.com) for more information.

**Bloomington:**

FCC Amateur Radio Exams will be given on at the American Red Cross at One Westport Court on East Route 9. Exam dates for 2010 are Mar. 13, May 8, July 17 and Nov. 13. Testing begins at 1:00pm. Contact Keith Hanson AC9S at [ac9s@mchsi.com](mailto:ac9s@mchsi.com) (preferred) or (309) 378-4416 for more information.

**Note on testing – A Social Security number is now required for all FCC exams.**

**BANDBITS  
Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 3508  
Peoria, IL 61612-3508**

**Place  
Stamp  
Here**

FORWARD AND ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED