



BANDBITS



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

Volume 26, Number 4

April 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is looking like spring and that makes it time start planning Field day. And we will be doing just that at the April club meeting. We need operators, food and all the other things that make up field day.

We have had very successful field days the last several years and we need you to come and help put together another success.

We also need to get all the unpaid club dues brought up to date. Dues help pay for field day and other club expenses so it is very important to keep your membership up to date.

Merle KB9VQH

Quotes for the Month

The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function.

--F. Scott Fitzgerald

The ear tends to be lazy, craves the familiar and is shocked by the unexpected; the eye, on the other hand, tends to be impatient, craves the novel and is bored by repetition.

--W. H. Auden

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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.

Apr. 1--PAARC Board Meeting, 7:00pm ARC Chapter House

Apr. 8 – PAARC Club Meeting 7:00pm ARC Chapter House.

**Program: D-star “All you need to know about D-Star” with Darhal Wolf
Fritz Bock will speak on the proposed balloon Launch**

May 13 ARES Presentation by Kurt Rocke K9UQF

June 10 Field Day preparations - Craig Thompson K9CT

July 8 - 6:30 pm Cruise IN - A chance to examine mobile Communications by members

August 12 - RED CROSS PRESENTATION by Harley Jones, American Red Cross

September 9 - Superfest Plans and Update - John Coker N9FAM

October 14 - Nominations for officers of PAARC and Superfest update

November 11- Election of Officers and possible program

December 9 - Christmas Party or Open House (To be determined)

Refreshment Schedule

Apr. 8 Rick Weber, KC9SIP

May 13 “Open”

June 10 “Open”

July 8 “Open”

ARES MEETING SCHEDULE

ARES PROGRAMS (Subject to revision)
Germantown HILLS FD 7PM

April 28 – IC100/700 Review by KC9DBE

May 26 - ARES and RACES by K9EMA

June 23 – Canceled for Field Day Event June 25-26

July 28 – Voice of America Transmitters by W9CJX

Club Officers

President Merle Joiner, KB9VQH
 Vice President James Williams, N9HHU
 Secretary Mark Riggio, K9MPR
 Treasurer Ron Morgan, KB9NW
 Directors Fritz Bock, WD9FMB
 Mark Suhs, W9WGN
 Trustee Bob Bush, W9WTF

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
 Web Page – <http://www.w9uvi.org/>

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.

Dues are payable by March 1ST of each year.

BANDBITS Policy

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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

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 Various Club Members

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

Mar. 6	Mar. 13	Mar. 20	Mar. 27	Total
23	19	20	17	79

Highlights from the check-ins.

Mar. 6:

KC9QYB(Paul) Has been studying for the general class license test. Said he has been busy at school with several projects. Also said he was looking forward to the weather spotter’s training at the next club meeting.

N9FLS(Arvid) Said hello and that they had an interesting trip to the Sterling ham fest. Everyone had fun and he picked up some hardware while there.

K9DRF(Darhal) not much happening. Just returned from Florida Tuesday. They spent two weeks in Port Charlotte and have reserved the same for next year. He went to the Orlando Ham fest while he was there. Now has to get back and organized again.

K9CT(Craig) Craig said that he operated the DX contest this weekend. He enjoyed working 40 meter phone but said it was tough. The total sunspot activity was up with the SFI # of 143 and sunspot # of 114. Said that 10 meters was open to Europe. This morning on 40 meters he was talking to Stations with a “VK” prefix and four suffix letters. Craig said that he made 1400 contacts in 300 countries.

KB9KBC(Dave) Said we only have two weeks of old man winter left but was happy that we did get some snow. Dave talked for 20 minutes to a contact in Mississippi and enjoyed a nice qso.

KC9SIP(Rick) Reminded the March club meeting will be a spotter training class.

KC9QVV(Tom) Checked in and said he was able to upgrade to a general class license last month and was looking forward to getting on the HF bands. He also thanked the VE’s W9WGN Mark, W9OI Cliff, and NJ9T Pete.

KC9ALV(Daniel) NEWSLINE

Continued on page 4

Minutes of the Board Meeting March 4, 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:55 PM by President Merle Joiner. Members present: Merle Joiner, Rick Weber, Ayesa Brown, Jim Williams, Mark Suhs, Bob Bush, Darhal Wolf, Fritz Bock, Ron Morgan, Mark Riggio, Jim Hornbaker.

There was a brief discussion of the need to possibly relocate the .085 repeater, perhaps to Phil Rice's tower, as the need may arise. Also, a need was identified for the acquisition of a simple to use HF rig for the younger or less experienced operators, especially for FD operations. Darhal will check out what's available at the AES hamfest in Milwaukee.

Fritz briefed on the upcoming balloon launch event. The club would like to sponsor two such events per year, if this one is a success. So far, the Cub and Boy Scouts have expressed interest in participating. A motion was made and passed to allocate a \$1000 budget for such events going forward. One building will be dedicated to youth activities at Superfest, with some operations to include PSK31 and a balloon launch. Also explored was the idea of having club members become certified to serve as Scouting Merit badge resources; additionally, the possibility of holding a weekend Technician class during Superfest was put forward. Sponsoring youth oriented forums was also discussed and ideas are welcomed.

There followed a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion of many proposed changes to the club constitution; still a work in progress to be presented to the membership upon completion. Much of this is centering around defining duties of and possible expansion of board membership positions.

There was a short discussion of various members travel plans for Dayton. At the last moment, the minutes of the previous board meeting were approved and this meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Riggio- K9MPR
Secretary

Minutes of Regular Club Meeting March 11, 2011

No recorded minutes received.

The Lincoln National Weather Service made an excellent presentation for ham radio weather spotters.

One More Quote for the Month

It is a common experience that a problem difficult at night is resolved in the morning after the committee of sleep has worked on it.

--John Steinbeck

Bragging Rights!

A chance to brag. I just received a certificate from the ARRL for First Place High Power for Illinois in the 2010 ARRL DX Contest CW. I was ND9E during that contest.

73... Bill K3WA

Amateur Radio in Space: Two Astronauts Get Their Ham Ticket



Chris Cassidy, KF5KDR (left), and Luca Parmatano, KF5KDP, will journey to the International Space Station in 2013.

Even though they aren't scheduled to go to the International Space Station until 2013, two astronauts -- Chris Cassidy and Luca Parmatano -- are now licensed amateurs. Cassidy, who received the call sign KF5KDR, is scheduled to head to the ISS in March 2013 as part of Expedition 35. Parmatano -- an Italian from the European Space Agency -- is KF5KDP; he goes to the ISS three months later in May, as part of Expedition 36.

"Our aim is to have at least one crew member licensed and trained in on-air protocol, who is somewhat excited about ham radio and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program, per expedition," explained ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, told the ARRL that both Cassidy and Parmatano are "excited and interested in the educational aspects of Amateur Radio on board the ISS."

Taken from The ARRL Letter, March 31,

Net Control Reports, Continued

Mar. 6:

Also checking into the net with no traffic were W9WTF, KC9ROL, KA9JHL, KG9PH, N9SJZ, K9HJZ, KC9SYO, KA9RAB, W9KCB, K9TNT, KC9FWR, KC9QNC, KB9ATO, WX9JC, and KA9YSE. Thank you to everyone who checked in. We had 15 with no traffic and 8 with traffic. Total of 23
Tom de Kc9qvv

Mar. 13

Check-ins with Traffic

W9WTF – Great turn out at the Friday night Spotters Training class. Over 90 people showed up and after the meeting we worked on a couple of j-poles and got them working well. In the event that the Sunday Night net is cancelled... it will be moved to the .850 repeater.

KB9KBC – Had a good time on HF this weekend. Had a couple of QSO's, it has been a long HF dry spell for me, been missing it badly. Wanted to say my words to the people in Japan.

Others that checked in without traffic:

N9NEW, W9KCB, KC9FWR, N9FLS, KA9JHL, KC9ALV, KG9PH, KC9FWO, KC9SIP, KC9RZT, WX9JC, KC0TOT, KD0EKA, KB0ATO, KA9YSE, KC9QVV, and KC9QHJ

Mar. 20:

KC9QYB(Paul) Paul found out his J pole antenna had been shorting out on side of his house. He was able to fix that and sounded good on the radio. Mentioned that he was on spring break this week and planned to get his 20 meter dipole repositioned and would be listening later and would be checking out 10 meters too.

KB9KBC(Dave) said it was nice to not be shivering for a change. He planned to watch Michigan State.

KD0EKA(Jacquie) said that she had been away for awhile and wanted to say hello and that she was still alive.

KC9ALV(Daniel) provided AR News line for us.

KA9YSE(Dave) said that he was going to write to our representative about the HR607 bill and reminded everyone that this is very important that we do what we can to end it.

KC0TOT(Seth) Said good evening to everyone and he was enjoying the nice weather. Said that Jacquie brought him a case of sliders and they enjoyed a nice drive on the tractor.

Also checking into the net with no traffic were...N9NEW, KG9PH, KA9JHL, N9FLS, KC9ROL, KC9SYO, KC9SIP, K9DRF, KC9FWR, WX9JC, N9YUY, N9ZBE, KB9ATO, K9LDH

We had 20 check ins this week, 6 with traffic and 14 w/o. Thanks to all who checked in tonight.
KC9QVV de Tom

Net Control Reports, Continued

Mar. 27:

KB9KBC (Dave) Reported that his j-pole was bad and he switched over to his alternate antenna and was full quieting. Dave made 25 contacts this weekend including Germany and Belgium. Dave said that he was thrilled to be able to talk to the world on HF. **KC9ALV(Daniel)** Brought us AR News line.

KA9YSE(Dave) Reminded us about the pending HR-607 proposed legislation. He also said he found more legislations including HR-81(The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Act of 2011), HR-911, and S191.

Also checking into the net without traffic were W9WTF, KC9SIP, N9NEW, N9SJZ, KG9PH, K9HJZ, KC9FWR, N9FLS, KA9JHL, W9KCB, KC9ROJ, K9TNT, KD0EKA, and KC0TOT

Total 17, 3with traffic and 14 without. Thank you to all who checked in.
KC9QVV Tom

BALLOON LAUNCH PREPAREDNESS

I am looking for a used, working 2 meter HT that has an external mic/speaker jack. 5 watts output would be nice. We would use the HT as the basis for APRS transmission during the balloon launch. Please let me know. This would be a donation to the club.

Thanks,
Fritz
WD9FMB

HAMFESTS

Here's what the ARRL website presently has for hamfests 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.

04/17/2011 AAROFest 2011

Location: Galva, IL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Area Amateur Radio Operators

Website: <http://www.aa9ro.com>

04/30/2011 Lewis & Clark Radio Club Indoor Hamfest

Location: Godfrey, IL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lewis & Clark Radio Club

Website: <http://www.k9ham.org>

06/05/2011 Starved Rock Radio Club's 2011 Hamfest (W9MKS)

Location: Princeton, IL

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/wj9mks/hamfest.htm>

SILENT KEY

Adolph A. Zalucha, W9OOH, age 96 passed away Tuesday, March 15, 2011. He is survived by two daughters, Kathleen (Floyd) Heffren of Eureka and Rita Zalucha of Bloomington; and three sons, Dennis Salucha of Franksville, WI, Gerald Zalucha of Decatur and Gregory (Debbie) Zalucha of White Heath. Adolph was a 1932 graduate of Bloomington High and was the office manager at Owens Oil and Clark Oil. He was an avid collector of vintage items and a member of Holy Trinity Church in Bloomington. We extend our condolences to his family.

An ATTA-BOY for PAUL

**I stumbled across something totally unique. It's the blog of Paul Shirey KC9QYB, a Peoria Heights ham. He writes and produces a periodic podcast about Amateur Radio from a teenager's perspective. The fun part about this is that it appears (in my rapidly graying rearview mirror) to make our Service relevant and accessible to the very younger people with whom we're trying to establish relevance and accessibility. Take a look at it for yourself. More importantly, take a look at it with a youngster whom you've been trying to sell on the Service.

ARRL Illinois Section
 Section Manager: Thomas T Ciciora, KA9QPN
ka9qpn@arrl.org

Taken from March 16th Section News

On the Air : NIST to Conduct Time and Frequency User Survey



The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Time and Frequency Division is conducting a survey to learn more about its users, seeking to determine how the agency can make its services more useful in the future. NIST services include WWV, WWVH and WWVB, which provide reference time and frequency signals via radio. The NIST also provides the Internet Time Service -- which provides accurate time synchronization to computer systems -- and several other services to offer accurate time information via telephone or web pages. Radio amateurs are encouraged to complete the survey.

Taken from The ARRL Letter, March 31, 2011

Bands come alive with Cycle 24 sunspots!

It is time to get on the low bands. Have you been ignoring the low bands for the last few years? The days of daily contacts on 17 and 15 meters are back. Soon to follow will be 12 and 10 ...and maybe 6m.

For those that don't know and those that have forgot, it is fairly easy to make contacts on the higher bands with modest antennas and low power. As the ionosphere gets charged up with solar activity, the Maximum Usable Frequency rises. The MUF is where you want to operate. The signals are louder and can be heard from all parts of the earth.

Solar activity has recently been surging above 100 SSN, that is 100 sunspots and that has led to Solar Flux Index above 100 too. It has been 4 to 5 years since this happened last. Some of the sunspots are very active and release a lot of energy in the form of CME, Coronal Mass Ejections. You can follow the sun's storm activity on www.solarstormwatch.com.

The www.w9uvi.org website has the current solar activity and its impact on earth under the propagation link. I would suggest that you look at this on a daily basis. The higher the SSN and SFI, the better the chance of higher MUF. The lower A and K indexes also improve your chances of good communications with other parts of the world.

What is the best way to hear DX? Turn on your radio and listen, listen and listen some more. The sun charges the ionosphere....so each day as the sun comes up, you can listen on 20m and soon you will here stations coming in from Europe. Turn your radio to 17m and you will hear more Europeans shortly after 20m is open. 15m will open just a bit later but you can talk to many stations. They will be louder than the same stations on 17 and 20! We have had some brief openings on 12 and 10 but nothing on a regular basis just yet.

A simple dipole, loop or vertical tuned for these bands will be all that you need to make a contact with a loud station. The basic 100w transceiver that most hams have will work very nicely. So just get on and start having some fun.

Next up is the ARRL DX Phone Contest <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx> on March 5 and 6 GMT. You will hear DX stations on all of the bands. This is a good way to check band conditions and see how well your station works.

Enjoy the new sunspot cycle!
 73, Craig K9CT

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

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. 16, Jun. 18, Aug. 20, Sep. 17, Oct. 15, and Dec. 17. 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 for more information.

Bloomington: Note Location Change

FCC Amateur Radio Exams will be given on at the Normal Fire Department 1300 East College Ave Exam dates for 2011 are . Testing begins at 1:00pm. Bring two forms of identification. Contact Keith Hanson AC9S at 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.

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Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club
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