



BANDBITS



*The official publication of the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club
An ARRL Affiliated Club*

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President's Message

PAARC members and friends, I hoped that we would see a gradual return to warmer days, but that's not happening yet. So we will have to soldier on with cold-weather wisdom, protecting ourselves—and our batteries—from sub-freezing temperatures. The region may need us to be ready still this winter.

The club is facing some challenges with regard to personnel and equipment. If you have paid your dues, you have made an important contribution. If you know of people who have yet to join the club, whenever licensed, be a beacon to them for this purpose. Ham radio has a long way to go, and we're still in the business of breaking records and causing excitement through communications and research.

As we've made progress with Superfest planning, so now we will need to come together and work to cover a couple of holes in the club's administration: *trustee* and *secretary*. These positions are critical to our month-to-month functioning, and each requires a greater level of dedication, especially since both are director positions. Who is willing to give a bit more? We need your help, both as hams and as members of this organization.

Finally, let's ensure that our relationships with other ham clubs are friendly and constructive. It's the way the Amateur Radio Service should operate, and I know that we are capable of rising to the challenge. Have a great month!

Jon A. Dainty, Sr., NM0O, President

PAARC EVENTS

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.

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting – Thursday March 7th, 7:00pm

General Meeting

Friday March 15th, 6:30pm

Program: National Weather Service – Storm Spotting Class

Superfest Meeting

Thursday March 28th, 7:00pm

April

Board Meeting- Thursday, April 4th, 7:00pm

General Meeting

Thursday, April 11th, 7:00pm

Program: To be Announced

Superfest Meeting

Thursday, April 25th, 7:00pm

Peoria County ARES

March 6, Net @ 8:00 PM CST on the 075 repeater
March 13, Net @ 8:00 PM CST on the 075 repeater
March 15, Storm Spotter Training at the PAARC Meeting, 6:30 PM
March 20, ARES Meeting at the Peoria American Red Cross @ 7:00 PM CST

Meeting Agenda includes: ARES Connect, Spring Statewide ARES/AUXCOMM SET, ARES Show & Tell, Winlink Update & Winlink Tip of the Month, Discuss building your own sound card for digital modes.

Rich Holtman, KD9ANU, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Peoria County ARES
email: kd9anu@arrrl.net
Winlink: kd9anu@winlink.org
Cell: 309-256-4272

ARES website: <http://www.peoriacountyares.org/>

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Club Directors

President **Jon Dainty, NM0O**
 Vice President **Corey Ressler, KC9RAV**
 Secretary
 Treasurer **Deb Suhs, KA4DEB**
 Directors **Tom Hunt, W8NWX (1 year)**
Dave Lucas, AB9DL (2 years)
 Trustee **Bob Bush, W9WTF**
 Repeater Chair **Steve Grob, KD9AER**
 Superfest Chair **Deb Suhs, KA4DEB**

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

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:

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

Family Membership: Voting membership for first member and \$15 for each additional member in same household.

Non-voting Membership: \$10 per calendar year for 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 February 1ST of each year.

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 – P.O. Box 3508 Peoria, IL 61612-3508 or via E-mail at w9uvi@arrl.net. Articles for BANDBITS must be received by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the next issue.

Club Sunday Night Net

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.

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) (K9PEO) repeater is located in Glasford. The repeater uses a 103.5 Hz input tone.

The 147.675 (input)/147.075 (output) (W9UVI) repeater is located in Groveland. This repeater is used for the Sunday night net. This repeater uses a 156.7 Hz input tone for CTCSS squelch control.

The W9PIA D-Star 144.505 (input)/145.105 (output) repeater is located in Groveland.

Club Net Report

The Sunday Night W9UVI Net check-in results for the month are shown in the table below.

Feb 3	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24	Total
13	20	24	21	78

Feb 3: KB9ATO W9WGN KD9JXR KD9ERS NM0O KD9IVV W9TGO KD9JMX KD9LQL KD9ANU W8NWX W9GLO KC9YTT Submitted by KD9DBQ 73

Feb 10: KC9YTT KD9JXR W8NWX KD9AER W9JDP KD9LQL NM0O KD9IVV KB9TNZ KD9IBC N9SJZ KD9ANU KB9SF KD9HZS W9TGO W9WGN KD0UNM K9HJZ W9GLO KB9ATO Submitted by KD9DBQ 73

Feb 17: KD9IBC N9SJZ W8NWX KB9ATO W9JDP KD9LQL NM0O KD9AER KD9IVV KD9JXR KD9ANU KC9YTT/AE K9HJZ KD0UNM W9GLO KC9RAV KB9SF KD9HZS K9TNT KA9RYV KD9HJZ WB9RJY KC9WRK N9LFE Submitted by KD9DBQ 73

Feb 24: KA4DEB N9SJZ KD9AER W9WTF W9JDP KD9ERS KD9IBC KD9LQL NM0O W9GMK KD9DBQ KD9JXR K9HJZ W9GLO KD9ANU KB9TNZ AA9MK KC9WRK K9FIT W9WGN KC9YTT Submitted by W8NWX

PAARC Needs Your Help

PAARC has two positions that need to be filled Club secretary and trustee.

If you are willing to help your club and volunteer for one of these positions, contact Jon Dainty NM0O or Deb Suhs KA4DEB and let them know.

Minutes of the PAARC General Meeting – February 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order by PAARC Club President Jon NM0O at 7:01 p.m.

A motion was made by Jon NM0O to accept the minutes as published in Bandbits, and that motion was seconded by Tom W8NWG. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Deb KA4DEB presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Robert KC9YTT to accept the Treasurer's Report, and that motion was seconded by Tom W8NWG. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Repeater Update: Steve KD9AER reported that the new jumpers between the filter cans and Heliac have arrived, expect they will be installed next week. He also reports good progress on preparations needed to put the UHF D-Star machine on the air, as he has found a "gold mine" of info, and is building a portable NetBook computer with all the utilities needed for setting up this system.

SuperFest: The next SuperFest committee meeting will be held Thursday, February 28 at 7 pm here at the Red Cross.

The club is still in need of a volunteer for the office of Secretary. Please contact any board member if you are interested.

Tonight's program was a presentation from Rich Holtman, titled All About Winlink. (The presentation materials have been posted to the Club Website, under the "Downloads" tab.)

Motion to adjourn by Tom W8NWG, and seconded by Deb KA4DEB. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Rich KD9ANU Past-Secretary, filling in at tonight's

Minutes of PAARC Board Meeting – February 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order by PAARC Club President Jon NM0O at 7:03 pm. Others present were Tom W8NWG, Deb KA4DEB, Steve KD9AER, Corey KC9RAV, and Rich KD9ANU.

Tom W8NWG made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes from January, which was seconded by Corey KC9RAV. The motion was approved.

A volunteer to become Club Secretary is needed – please contact any board member if interested.

There was no Treasurer Report to review, as the books have yet to be transferred. Expect a report to be sent out via email over the weekend.

Superfest: Deb KA4DEB reported that January's SuperFest meeting went great, we even have volunteers for some jobs. Gordon West has tentatively agreed to come, in addition we are reaching out to Valerie Hotzfeld and Bob Heil. An email to Kermit Carlson will be sent out tomorrow. Checking with Dwight K9QJ regarding printing. Tom W8NWG suggested setting up an online calendar showing when tasks need to be completed. A Google Drive for SuperFest related documents has been created but not yet shared.

License Classes: Deb KA4DEB reported she has 5 people in the Technician license class. There are 3 folks on the wait list for a future General class.

Club Website: Deb KA4DEB is aware of the problem with the calendar – it is not displaying any events, although they have been loaded to the site. It is believed that a recent update to WordPress software broke the calendar, and further that updating the site to the latest version of WordPress will resolve the problem. Tom W8NWG has volunteered to help with maintaining the website.

Bandbits: The club is looking for a volunteer to be the Editor for Bandbits.

Repeater Updates: Steve KD9AER reported that the W9UVI 075 repeater was upgraded to the new Yaesu DX2 model on January 28, and has been working well since then, except for 3 days when the battery had run down after the power supply was accidentally disconnected. He has also installed professionally built jumper coax cables between the new repeater and filter cans. He also plans to put similar professionally built jumper cables between the cans and the Heliac feedline. Tom W8NWG made a motion that the club pay for these jumpers. Deb KA4DEB seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Tom W8NWG made a motion to put aside for this year only, Article IV, Section 3, Item B. of the Club Constitution, which reads: "No individual may concurrently hold more than one Director position in the Club." The Board is aware the Club has one person holding 2 Board of Director offices, and further the club has one open Board of Director office with no volunteers in sight – the club is in a bind. Corey KC9RAV seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Membership Report: While members are still in the process of paying dues for the year 2019, at this time preliminarily we have 32 members on record.

Programs: This month's program will be a presentation on Winlink by Rich KD9ANU.

Tom W8NWG made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Corey seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Submitted by Rich KD9ANU Past-Secretary, filling in at tonight's meeting

UPDATE: Bandbits Editor position has been filled.

Bandbits Access

As previously published, beginning with the April 2019 edition of Bandbits, access to Bandbits will be restricted. If you have not paid your membership dues, you will not be able to view Bandbits.

In February everyone who has paid their 2019 membership dues or those who hold a life membership will receive an electronic membership card and instructions on how to access Bandbits. If for some reason you do not receive your electronic membership card by Feb 20th please send an email to the club w9uvi@arrl.net.

2019 Membership Dues

2019 dues are now past due and need paid immediately.

Dues can be paid in person at a meeting, by mailing a check to the club at PO Box 3508 Peoria, IL 61612, or by PayPal via the link under the Membership tab on the club's website www.w9uvi.org. Select the membership level you want, and it will take you to PayPal. You do not have to have a PayPal account to pay your dues.

ARRL FIELD DAY

PAARC has begun planning for this year's event. The dates are June 22-23. If you would like to help with the planning, contact Corey Ressler, KC9RAV.

We are hoping to set up again in the Bass Pro Shops parking lot, we will let you know once that is finalized.

Repeater Updates

Steve, KD9AER, reported that the, W9UVI, 075 repeater was upgraded to the new Yaesu DX2 model on January 28, and has been working well since then, except for 3 days when the battery had run down after the power supply was accidentally disconnected. He has also installed professionally built jumper coax cables between the new repeater and filter cans. He also plans to put similar professionally built jumper cables between the cans and the Heliac feedline. Tom W8NWG made a motion that the club pay for these jumpers. Deb KA4DEB seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

On February 27, new commercially built jumper cables were installed between the cavities and the heliac on the 075 repeater and the D-star VHF repeater. The old jumpers had deteriorating insulation to the point of exposing shielding that was beginning to fray and we had to use multiple adapters because they had the incorrect connectors. This completes the repeater jumper upgrade project and will hopefully eliminate any signal loss caused by deterioration and adapter use. An AC power cord was installed on the 075 repeater and it is now running primarily on AC power with DC and generator power backup. Work continues on the D-Star UHF project and if we can get the ancient (Windows XP) drivers to install so the D-Star Utilities can connect to the Controller and Repeater, we stand a chance of enjoying a D-Star UHF repeater in Peoria.

Submitted by Steve Grob, KD9AER.

Purchases via AmazonSmile to Provide Dividends to ARRL.

Those who use Amazon for online purchases can automatically donate to ARRL by opting to use AmazonSmile and designating American Radio Relay League (ARRL) as their charity of choice.

The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible AmazonSmile items to whichever charity you choose. Product and Marketing Specialist Jackie Ferreira, KB1PWB, reports that the benefit of AmazonSmile to ARRL for 2018 was \$8,676, up from \$8,022 in 2017.

Family and friends can select ARRL as their charity of choice too. There is no difference between Amazon and AmazonSmile in terms of making purchases.

More information is available on the ARRL website. "We encourage member participation in AmazonSmile," Ferreira said.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/purchases-via-amazon-smile-provide-dividends-to-arrl>

Winlink Presentation

Rich Holtman, KD9ANU, gave a presentation on the Winlink system at the monthly PAARC meeting. This was a basic overview of the program and the possibilities behind it. Rich has been using this program along with the local ARES club by doing weekly exercises to keep the members up to date on the usage of this program.

Winlink is a form of e-mail coupled with the use of internet or can be sent using only radio waves. This program is based on the old Packet system. It has become popular with programs such as ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) and used in the event of communication outages.

If you are interested in more information and/or were unable to attend the PAARC meeting, the presentation is available on w9uvi.org under downloads tab.



ARRL Special Stations

03/01/2019-01/01/2020: County Parks on the Air; West Central Florida Section, arrlwc.org/wcf-special-events/county-parks-on-the-air

03/01-03/14: The Battleship Texas 105th Birthday; Cleburne, TX, <https://www.qrz.com/db/kc5nx>

03/05-03/12: C-47 Skytrain Special Event; Oklahoma City, OK, w5mwc.org

03/09/2019: The American Legion's 100th Birthday Celebration, Indianapolis, IN, www.legion.org/hamradio

03/09-03/17: Winter Field Day, Bear Bait Radio Club (Clay, NY), bearbaitradioclub.com

03/16-03/17: St Patrick's Day Special Event Station (GB1SPD), Northern Ireland, www.wtar.org.uk

03/23/2019: 205th Anniversary of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Daviston, AL, www.facebook.com/K4YWE

Items For Sale/Donation

7 10 foot Rohn tower sections, 2 are top sections. Never used, \$140 a section or best offer. Contact Al Lurie's daughter Celeste Lurie Restrepo at 309-645-4303 if interested.

Craig Thompson has been selling off N9LR's radio gear, he has several 2m radios and power supplies he would like to donate to anyone needing either. Please contact Craig by email at craig@k9ct.us if interested.

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: Feb 16, Apr 20, June 16, Aug 18, Oct 20 and Dec 15. 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 2018 is \$15.00. You will also need identification such as a Driver's License, and a Social Security Number. Contact Bob Bush W9WTF at W9WTF@ARRL.net for more information.

Bloomington:

The schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio testing dates for 2019 are: 3/16 1:00- 3:00, 5/25, 7/20 and 11/9 are tentative dates. Testing is held at the Bloomington Public Library Community Room located at the intersection of E. Olive St. and S. East St. Entrance is off S. East St. People should contact Keith a week prior to the test for date and location. Testing begins at 1:00pm. Bring two forms of identification. You will need a copy of your current license plus and CSCE you want to apply. Contact Keith Hanson AC9S at ac9s@hotmail.com (preferred) or (309) 378-4416 for more information.

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