



### President's Message

Now is when we expect spring's benefits to arrive. So, let's leave the tough and destructive winter behind; now we get out more, more easily maintain our gear, and find less hazardous ways to help out the communities where we live and work.

Some of our friends have stepped up and dedicated more of their time and effort to the administration of PAARC. Neil Hubert, when he's not directing air traffic or stringing huge rhombic antennas in the back yard, has stepped into the position vacated by Tom Hunt on the board. Tom, as trustee, is now overseeing our repeater operations (W9UVI, W9PIA, and K9PEO) and maintaining an active charity presence in Illinois.

Melinda Hubert is now, when she's not assisting patients with lung function, producing "Bandbits" and assisting Tom Hunt with the maintenance of the PAARC Facebook site. They may be asking you for articles and news pieces, so keep something interesting in mind. ("It was aliens ... I swear!")

Rich Holtman is going above and beyond the call of duty as he keeps our meeting minutes intact. Since he is also Assistant EC for Peoria County, he's not been short of work. Let's help him out: Someone must have a desire to serve PAARC as secretary—now would be a great time!

Please be happy, be safe on the roads, and produce much RF energy. Keep central Illinois "hot."

Jon A. Dainty, Sr., NM0O, President

### April's Club Event's:

April 4th: Board Meeting

April 11th: Club Meeting

April 18th: 94th World Amateur Day

April 20th: ARRL Testing at Red Cross

April 25th: Superfest Meeting

### May's Club Events:

May 2nd: Board Meeting

May 9th: Club Meeting

May 22nd: ARES Net on the 075

May 30th: Superfest Meeting

### PAARC Needs Your Help

PAARC has one position that needs to be filled of Club secretary. If you are willing to help your club and volunteer for this position, contact Jon Dainty NM0O or Deb Suhs KA4DEB and let them know.

### Inside this issue:

Page 1: President Message, PAARC Needs Your Help, Page 2: Peoria County ARES, Sunday Night Net, Club Directors Page 3/4: Minutes of Board/Club Meeting, Page 5: Repeater Updates, NWS SKYWARN Program, Page 6: ARRL April Special Stations, Page 7: FCC Testing Information, ARES Helps Iowa..

## Peoria County ARES

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 8:00 pm	NET	075 Repeater
April 10 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 pm	NET	075 Repeater
April 17 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 pm	Meeting	Peoria American Red Cross
April 27 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 – 5:00 pm	ARES/AUXCOMM Simulated Emergency Training	EMA Bunker

Meeting Agenda includes: Spring Statewide ARES/AUXCOMM SET, ARES Show & Tell, Winlink Tip of the Month

Rich Holtman, KD9ANU, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Peoria County ARES email: [kd9anu@arrl.net](mailto:kd9anu@arrl.net)  
Winlink: [kd9anu@winlink.org](mailto:kd9anu@winlink.org) Cell: 309-256-4272 ARES website: <http://www.peoriacountyares.org/>

## 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.

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

March-3	March-10	March-17	March-24	March-31	Total
20	19	28	21	23	111

March 3<sup>rd</sup> Check-Ins: N9SJZ W8NWG KD0UNM W9JDP KD9JXR NM0O KD9LQL K9TNT KD9AER KD9IVV KB9ATO W9TGO KB9SF KD9ERS KD9ANU KC9RAV W9FYR KB9TNZ W9WGN N9WFT Submitted by KD9DBQ 73

March 10<sup>th</sup> Check-Ins: K8ROY K9DRF W9WGN W9JDP NM0O KD9JXR KD9AER W9TGO KD9JLX KD9IVV KC8FYI K9GOA KD9ANU W9GMK KB9TNZ KD9LQL N9WFT KD0UNM KD9HZS Submitted by KD9DBQ 73

March 17<sup>th</sup> Check-Ins: KD9JXR W9JDP W9TGO W8NWG NM0O KD9IVV N9ZA KD9AER KD9LQL KD9HZS KD9ANU KD9IBC N9WFT W9GLO KB9SF W9WTF KB9THI AA9MK KB9TNZ KT9TB KD9MOA K9CEW KD9ERS KD9BRV KC9YTT KD9HZZ W9WGN KB9ATO Submitted by KD9DBQ 73

March 24<sup>th</sup> Check-Ins: KD9JXR, N9SJZ, N9LFE, KC9YTT, KB9TNZ, K9GMK, K9DRF, W9WFGN, NM0O, KB9ATO, W9TGO, KD9HZZ, W8NWG, KD9IBC, N9WFT, KD9BRV, K9TNT, KD9LQL, W9GLO, AA9MK, KC9YGT

March 31<sup>st</sup> Check-Ins: KD9JXR W9JDP KB9ATO KD9AER W8NWG W9GMK K9TNT KD9IVV K9DRF WW9DLM KD9ERS KD9IBC KC9YTT KD9BRV KD9HZS KD9ANU K9CEW KB9SF K9JLX KD9MOA K8ROY KD9HZZ N9WFT Submitted by KD9DBQ 73

## Club Directors

President Jon Dainty, NM0O; Vice President Corey Ressler, KC9RAV; Secretary, ; Treasurer Deb Suhs, KA4DEB; Directors Neil Hubert, KC8FYI (1 year); Dave Lucas, AB9DL (2 years); Trustee Tom Hunt, W8NWG, Repeater Chair Steve Grob, KD9AER; Superfest Chair Deb Suhs, KA4DEB.

---

## Minutes of Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by PAARC Club President Jon Dainty NM0O at 6:59 pm. Others present were Steve Grob KD9AER, Tom Hunt W8NWG, Corey Ressler KC9RAV, Neil Hubert KC8FYI, Melinda Hubert K9GOA, and Rich Holtman KD9ANU.

Based on a previous vote of the Board of Directors, Tom Hunt W8NWG is now the Club's Trustee. The paperwork has been submitted to the FCC and all 3 club call signs show him as the Trustee. In conjunction with this change, Tom has resigned as one of the Club Directors.

Tom nominated Neil Hubert, KC8FYI, to fill the remaining portion of his term as Club Director, which was seconded by Steve Grob, KD9AER. The motion was approved.

Tom W8NWG made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes as published, which was seconded by Steve, KD9AER. The motion was approved.

There was no Treasurer Report to review, as Deb, KA4DEB, was absent due to illness.

Melinda, K9GOA, suggested to the Board that a spring picnic be held to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the Club, to occur at the Summer Field Day, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 22 – Sunday, June 23. Everyone likes this idea. Add this to your calendar of events.

Melinda, K9GOA, also showed 3 options to obtain custom printed lanyards for sale to club members and the public (at Field Day and SuperFest). She has also begun to look at options for 100th year anniversary T-Shirts. She will continue to refine the information for later review.

Tom, W8NWG, made an acknowledgement of the many contributions Melinda has made to the club through her work on the website, Bandbits, social media, and club promotion.

**SuperFest:** Jon, NM0O, reported that we are still working to get Gordon West and Valerie Hotzfeld to attend SuperFest. He further reported that Bob Heil cannot attend.

**Repeater Chairman:** Steve, KD9AER, reported that in the recent past, our club has enjoyed a special, unusual D-Star registration process for new users. Such new users cannot self-register through the normal D-Star process, rather they had to submit their info to the club, which was then forwarded to Icom/D-Star. This convoluted process results in new users signing up elsewhere (for example, through Springfield). Then Springfield would contact Steve to tell us of these new users.

Tom, W8NWG, made a motion to abandon the special registration process and adopt the standard D-Star Registration process. (Our Repeater Chairman will still have the ability to approve users and remove users.) Jon, NM0O, seconded the motion, this motion was approved.

## 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.

## 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.

---

Steve also reported that he has made changes to the power being supplied to the W9UVI 075 repeater. Recently, it was discovered that the 075 repeater was running solely on DC power, as the AC power cable had accidentally become disconnected, and the repeater's performance suffered greatly after a few days when the battery became discharged. To remedy the situation, the opportunity for the AC power to become disconnected has been resolved. The repeater is operating on AC power, with a battery back-up if AC power fails, and finally the backup generator at the Groveland Tower Site picks up.

Bill, the new owner of the Groveland Tower Site commented last fall that he felt our antenna swayed in the wind. Since that time, the tower climber has tightened up all antenna connected to our equipment. In the meeting, those present viewed a video which Steve KD9AER shot a few days ago when the wind was blowing strongly - based on similar displacements of the multiple antennas in the video, it is believe there is no problem to be addressed.

Steve KD9AER confirmed that when the D-Star UHF machine is placed on the air, it will be known as W9PIA.

Tom W8NWG reports that he supports changing the call sign of the Winlink Station at the bunker to W9PIA-10. Since our VHF D-Star station is W9PIA, all of the club's digital stations will be known under the W9PIA call sign.

Steve KD9AER reported that he has made much more progress on setting up the D-Star UHF station. He has configured a portable computer to be dedicated for setting-up usage, and has connected with it to the repeaters and confirmed they are programmed as desired. Next, he will be connecting to the D-Star controller computer to check and finish the configuration.

Corey KC9RAV made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve KD9AER seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

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

## March Club Meeting Minutes:

Tonight's program was Weather Spotter Training presented by Ed Shimon of the NWS. Approximately 60 people were in attendance. There was no formal business meeting.

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

## 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.

## Bandbits Access

As previously published, beginning with the April 2019 edition, 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 have not received your electronic membership card, please send an email to the club w9uvi@arrl.net.

## Best Operating Practices

According to FCC rules it is required that all amateur stations ID every 10 minutes.

A good rule of thumb is when the repeater IDs (every 10 minutes) it is a nice reminder to ID yourself.

## Repeater Updates

A developing problem with receiving (transmit OK) on the 147.075 repeater which is normally connected to the 180ft DB224E antenna promoted us to switch the 147.075 repeater to the 160ft DB224E antenna. Consequently, we also switched the D-Star VHF repeater to the 180 ft as it seems the digital mode can tolerate marginal antenna performance. This resulted in the 147.075 repeater having acceptable performance once again. We are in the process of scheduling another tower climb tentatively early in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April to diagnose and repair the 180ft DB224E antenna. Preliminary tests on the 180ft antenna show SWR anywhere from 1.8:1 to 6.0:1. Yes, it changes from day to day!

During the Month of March, we experienced some very high winds which really blew our antennas around. So, we are investigating the installation of support brackets for the free end of all 3 of our repeater antennas to protect them from possible wind damage.

Steve Grob, KD9AER

## March Meeting Presentation

The March monthly club meeting of PAARC was a special presentation of the National Weather Service SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program. Ed Shimon of the NWS location out of Lincoln, IL came and presented the Weather Storm Spotting Class and approximately 60 people were in attendance. These classes are held, in hopes of increasing interest in general public and those with Amateur radio licenses to assist the NWS in times of storms or weather emergencies. Although an Amateur radio license is not required to assist NWS having a license allows communication when cellular phone communications are impaired.

SKYWARN is a volunteer program in which 350,000- 400,000 trained spotters assist to help keep their local communities safe by providing up-to-date and accurate information to the National Weather Service. These updates allow quicker broadcasts and warnings to individuals who may be in the path of dangerous weather. For more information: <https://www.weather.gov/SKYWARN>



Photograph compliments of Rich Holtman, KD9ANU

## ARRL April Special Stations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Information:</u>
April 1 <sup>st</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	100 <sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Foundation of the UK Royal Air Force	Pocono Lake, PA	Michael Goodwin Ke2eh@mail.com
April 1 <sup>st</sup> - May 1 <sup>st</sup>	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of W6RO aboard the Queen Mary  <a href="http://www.qrz.com/db/w6ro">www.qrz.com/db/w6ro</a>	Long Beach, CA	Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach  <a href="http://www.aralb.org">www.aralb.org</a>
April 8 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	Petal-Southern Miss Pow-Wow  Event focus is on Native American culture.	Petal, MS	Hattiesburg Amateur Radio Club <a href="http://www.hattiesburgamateurradioclub.org/">http://www.hattiesburgamateurradioclub.org/</a>
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Celebration  Operating on solar power from historic, educational Stearns Farm in the Parma, Ohio town center	Cleveland, OH	Parma Radio Club <a href="http://parmaradioclub.com">parmaradioclub.com</a>
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: Doolittle Raid	San Diego, CA	USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	World Amateur Day  *WORLD* CONFERENCE ON ECHOLINK ALLSTAR 47620	Rochester, NY	Nevada Amateur Radio Repeaters Inc. <a href="http://theworldradionetwork.com/">http://theworldradionetwork.com/</a>
April 20 <sup>th</sup> -May 4 <sup>th</sup>	78 <sup>th</sup> Annual Maple Syrup Festival	Vermontville, MI	Rev. Dr. Rodney L. Harmon <a href="mailto:srharmon1974@sbcglobal.net">srharmon1974@sbcglobal.net</a>
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Idaho Ham Radio STEM-Fest  CW, SSB, and digital modes	Mountain Home, ID	Boise County ARES Group <a href="http://www.idahohamradiostemfest.com/schedule.html">www.idahohamradiostemfest.com/schedule.html</a>

For more information, [http://www.arrl.org/special\\_events/search/page:1/Date.start:2019-04-01/Date.end:2019-04-30/model:Event](http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:1/Date.start:2019-04-01/Date.end:2019-04-30/model:Event)



---

### Membership Dues

Membership dues are past due and need to be 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](http://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. If you have suggestions please feel free to suggest them to a board member.

### 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](mailto:craig@k9ct.us) if interested.

---

## ARES Helps Iowa Water Utility to Resolve RFI Issue

Des Moines (Iowa) Water Works (DMWW) uses secure radiotelemetry to monitor various remote-site parameters to alert staff to problems. Earlier this year, DMWW experienced periodic and sometimes total failure of the radio system. After no solution could be found, staff reached out to various resources, including the FCC. [Polk County ARES also was brought in, and eight operators assembled to track down the interference, working the late shift.](#)

After a process of elimination, the ARES volunteers pinpointed the interfering signal to defunct equipment atop a downtown Des Moines building. The team contacted the owner of the license associated with the equipment and got permission to disable it, and DMWW confirmed that the signal interference was gone. Collectively, the Polk County ARES volunteer team spent approximately 70 hours to assist DMWW. Following the experience, DMWW installed a more robust radio system with encryption and established stronger relationships with several entities that can assist if similar problems arise. — Thanks to *H2Oline* and The ARES E-Letter.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/ares-helps-iowa-water-utility-to-resolve-rfi-issue>

REMINDER: The April 20<sup>th</sup> testing session will be held at the Red Cross NOT the Morton Library

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.