



THE REPEATER



Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club, Inc

Volume 15, Issue 1

February 4, 2008



Christmas Party

Despite bad roads due to ice and snow, and very cold weather, twenty some members and guests gathered at the ABC Community Building on December 8th for the WAARCI annual Christmas party.

Punch and hot coffee was available as we gathered and visited.

Santa found us for a joyful visit and passed out candy canes.

Everyone enjoyed our meal of turkey and ham prepared by Katie and all the other dishes contributed by the attendees

Following the meal, our president presided over the recognition of service to the club during of the year by awarding certificates of appreciation.

The group then played Bingo with winners taking their choice of the unopened gifts or snitching one of the gifts from a previous winner.

Highlight of the evening was the drawing of the Door Prize. It was a Honeywell TN924W Weather Station. This was won by Tom, WBØTOM.

Thanks, Gloria who was chairman of this event. She was helped by Gail, Sherri, and Katie.



WAARCI 2008 Officers

President WBØTOM Tom Ilgenfritz
Vice President KBØVZP Rick Ebbesen
Secretary KCØLCX Tyler Graham
Treasurer NØRP Ray Pautz

Monthly Meetings

WAARCI meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. Current meeting place is the American Red Cross Building, 208 Emerson in Warrensburg.

Membership Information

Membership dues - \$12.00 per year
Family membership dues - \$18.00
New Member dues are prorated for a partial year.
Life Membership - \$250.00
Family Life Membership - \$375.00
Family membership includes all family members living in same household.

Activities

Repeaters 146.88 & 443.200 – Subaudible tone of 107.2 on both 2 meter net called each Sunday evening at 8:30 PM. Net control is traded among members. Net to be activated for weather watch.

Webb Page: www.WAARCI.org
Webmaster: Marcus Ward, KCØSUZ with Keith Haye, WEØG and Tyler Graham, KCØLCX assisting.

Others: Field Day - Test Sessions - Hamfest - Fox Hunts - Park Cleanup/Picnic - Cemetery mowing and cleanup – Mowing at Tower site - Tables and Laminating at Hamfests. etc.

Welcome to New Members (Since Jan. 1, 2008)

KØMAF Jack Hubby Windsor
KCØFDF Dick Hunt Wheatland
John Lawrence Warrensburg

Apologies to any who may have been omitted.

WAARCI Membership on
December 31, 2007 was 85

January 31, 2008 we had 39 members who have paid their dues for the year.

New Calls Heard on Repeater

If you hear a new or different call on the repeater, take a moment to say hello and welcome them to the area. Note their call and pass it on to one of the board members and Katie, WØKTE. We'd like to acknowledge them in the next newsletter.

ARRL VEC Information

Regular test sessions for the WAARCI are scheduled on the 2nd Saturday of the months of March, July, and November. Larry, W9XE, is the test session coordinator. He can be contacted on the repeater or by telephone 660 429-1816 or e-mail larry@project777.net.

The fee for 2008 is \$14.00. Another test fee must be charged for each element that is retaken.

Advance registration is appreciated

WALK-INS ARE WELCOME

Please arrive 30 minutes early for registration

ARRL

Our club is an Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) Special Service Club. To retain this affiliation, 51 percent of our members must have ARRL membership. ARRL membership currently is:

	One Year
Regular	\$39
65 & Over	34

Amateurs 21 years of age and under may qualify for special rates. Life Membership is also available. The secretary or treasurer should have applications and additional information.

ARRL Membership includes a subscription to QST, access to endless publications, etc.. The club retains \$15.00 for new ARRL memberships, (members who have not had ARRL membership in the past two years.)

ARRL Contacts:

Headquarters –
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Newington, CT 06111-1494
Ph. 860-594-0200
Fax 860-594-0259
E-Mail hg@arrl.org

Midwest Director:
Bruce Frahm, KØBJ
Colby, KS

Midwest Vice Director:
Cliff Ahrens KØCA
Hannibal, MO

State Section Manager:
Dale Bagley, KØKY
Macon, Missouri

You can e-mail above contacts by using their *call sign* at arrl.org
example k0bj@arrl.org

THE REPEATER is dedicated to serving the needs of the members of the WAARCI. Our staff welcomes input, opinion and information about activities related to the Club or Club members. **The paper is normally published prior to the club meeting of every other month.** Publication months are Feb. Apr. Jun. Aug. Oct. Dec. **Articles will be published on a space available basis. Submission does not guarantee publication. Opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the author and may or may not reflect those of the WAARCI board and membership. The WAARCI board reserves the right to edit all copy.**

Issues will be distributed at club meetings and via e-mail. Hard copies will be mailed to those without an e-mail address or if requested. For more information feel free to contact any of the board members. Items can be mailed to the club post office box or contact Katie WØKTE. via email address rpautz@charter.net; telephone 660 747-5002; address 13 SE 125 Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Words from the President

We are beginning a new year and this is the first newsletter for the year of 2008. I am encouraged and hopeful that we as a club will continue to work and strive to make our hobby enjoyable and learn more about amateur radio. Our goal this year is to help education of new hams and upgrade our existing members and provide an image to the public that we are professional communications specialists displaying our talents for the purpose of public and community service.

There are several committee chairpersons to assist in the organization of our events and activities such as Hamfest, Field Day, Repeater, Cemetery Mowing and our annual Club Christmas Party. They will certainly appreciate your support and participation to help make these programs successful. The programs are only as successful as the efforts of each of the members can contribute.

We are looking forward to informational sessions following our club meetings to enhance our knowledge of equipment and our organization skills to prepare us for an emergency or disaster that we may be needed to exercise our readiness. We are planning a disaster drill to test our readiness and our skills this March and hope for a plentiful show of interested hams to exhibit our commitment to the emergency agencies and community for our help in communications.

The WAARCI Board appreciates your confidence in allowing us to represent the club members for the second consecutive year.

We have enjoyed serving you this past year and will continue to provide interesting club meetings and activities that will interest club members and invite new hams. We have discussed another foxhunt in the Warrensburg area. Our last one was a lot of fun and had some wonderful food afterward.

The Sunday evening net has really increased in check-ins and it is great to hear new net control operators on the air. Thank you Sherri, KDOCAT. It is wonderful to see just how many hams are out there and ready to contribute in a time of emergency. It is also a good opportunity to keep up on the news and upcoming events and activities that WAARCI supports.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the club meetings and activities this year.

Tom Ilgenfritz
WBØTOM

ARES

The Johnson County ARES group is planning an exercise that is tentatively scheduled for March 22nd 2008. They are working with instructors and students at UCM. These students are in a class specifically for teaching exercise writing and management.

The next ARES meeting is scheduled for February 10th 2008 at 3:00 PM at the Red Cross building when we will meet with some of the students to give them more information on what we can do to help during a disaster.

We will be looking for at least 10 people to help with this exercise, the scenario discussed will be a tornado that hits the campus and knocks out power to a large area of the campus. There would be damage to several dormitories and buildings on the campus. The tower at the dispatch center would be out of service. We will need communications at the EOC, the dispatch center, Warrensburg hospital, and the dormitory buildings.

We encourage all amateurs to contact Rick if you would like to participate in this exercise. There will be a need for portable equipment. It would be desirable to have some digital and/or video modes. These skills would be useful to show off our capabilities of emergency communications. This exercise is not only to give us practice in a real world scenario but also to give the management of UCM a demonstration of what amateur radio can offer the general public in times of disaster.

Contact Rick Ebbesen KB0VZP at jcares@charter.net or call (660) 747-6869 if you can help.

I would like to share a few quotes I came across lately for everyone to think about.

“Tools in tool boxes tend to rust”

LTC Boyle US Army

“An organization is useless if it’s purpose, capabilities and limitations are unknown by those they serve”

LTC Boyle US Army

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit".

said Harry S Truman.

ARES MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 3:00 PM

Hope to see you there.

Rick, KBØVZP

Holiday contacts from members or former members



Cecelia Long age 11 months

Keith and Gail received the above and shared.

Mike, N3QD, and Michelle, KB3LSW, wrote that they had a wonderful Christmas watching Cecelia open her presents and smash cake all over her face on her birthday.

Ray and Katie,
Merry Christmas and a safe, healthful, and happy New Year to both of you. All is well here in Tehachapi with Sonja and me. Tomorrow we plan to travel to Alaska to see family. I plan to return on the 1st and Sonja will spend another ten days. I am looking forward to the trip and hope I do not freeze too much.

Yesterday I received notice from the FCC that I was granted a change to my call sign. I took the call sign of my late brother Stan who was taken by cancer two years ago. You may remember Stan who was two years younger than me and he visited Missouri a number of times and attended a meeting or two during his visits. Funny thing about cancer, Stan never smoked, drank little, was an avid runner and cyclist, and watched what he ate. My call sign now is WE9H.

Sonja and I are looking forward to visiting Missouri in the future, but not sure when. Sonja was born and raised in Alaska and has never been to Missouri and not many of the other states for that matter. When we do visit, we hope to see you.

Take care and again, best of Christmas and New Years to both of you.

73,
Andy
WE9H

We also received a card without a note from Jim, K8JMC, and Kathy, KBØOTT Callon. They are still located in Sault Sainte Marie, MI.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY

(Belated Greetings)

- 1 Roy Jones W5RJ
- 3 Bill Harmon WBØONM
- 5 Tom Wilson KCØWZF
- 10 Bill Schrock NØUMP
- 14 Jesse Skaar
- 15 Patty Wilson KCØWZE
- 19 Coleman Wright AAØXE
- 26 Walt Sargent KCØKNA

FEBRUARY

- 4 Bill Gardner KØUG
- 28 John Howard KØVET

MARCH

- 1 Bob Belker WDØCLH
- 6 Gary Adams WAØBTM
- 8 Bill Runyon KØDUF
- 17 Patty Runyon KCØRQN

Repeater UP Grades

This has been a busy year for the Local Repeater. John KØVET and RayJ KØHDC have spent a lot of time working over the old Micors. The repeater has been up and running with no down time and minimal glitches most of the summer. Better performance than I can remember in a long time.

We have upgraded the Battery backup with four batteries from EnerSys. With these batteries we can operate the repeater on back up power for more than a week. Ray NØRP talked to the right people and had these batteries donated to the club. These Batteries were put on line around the first of December by Rick KØVZP, Tyler KCØLCX and Keith NØVJ.

Over the past years, several repeater committee groups have determined that the duplexers are the weak point in the system. If they were ever to fail the repeater would be off line until they were repaired or replaced. This year the club bought a 6 cavity set of duplexer from Tellwave. As of this publication the duplexers have not been installed. Before we do we want to beef up the lighting protection. I am hoping this will be done in the next couple of weeks.

One of the secondary gains to replacing the duplexers is that we will take the old ones and repair them so they can be used as a back up. This will allow interested club members to get some hands on working with the old duplexers.

As I was doing the research regarding the duplexers I ran across and old friend "Bob KFØAM." He builds repeaters in South Dakota for businesses and the Government. Bob has some good Micor "VHF/UHF repeater radios" that he has taken out of service and is going to give to WAARCI. These radios will replace the current UHF and VHF Micor mobile radios that have been modified to work for the repeater. This will be a substantial upgrade, and will allow some older components that have caused issues in the past to be taken off line. This upgrade should simplify the repeater and make the system more reliable. Again this will allow any interested club members to get involved in setting up and working on these Micors. For more information just drop by the club meeting at the Red Cross building on the Second Saturday of each month at 9:00AM.

We are looking forward to many new projects this upcoming year and encourage anyone that is interested to stop on by.

Regards
Keith NØVJ



Back-up Batteries as installed at the repeater

Batteries: An important part of battery backup.

As a ham radio operator you are aware that it is important to be able to use your radio during an emergency which is a perfect time for a power outage. If power goes out at your home, there is a good chance it has also gone out at the repeater site which would render the repeater useless. Not being able to use the repeater would be a bad situation especially during an emergency where it may be needed.

At the end of last year the repeater committee evaluated the condition of the batteries at the site and established they were not adequate. After research and consideration the committee decided to purchase some batteries. As this idea was brought to the board, Ray NØRP mentioned he had an acquaintance at EnerSys batteries. Thanks to Ray and his connections at EnerSys batteries the club has acquired four batteries that should be sufficient.

We were able to get our hands on four ArmaSafe tank batteries. These batteries have 1225 Cold Cranking Amps, short circuit at 3500 amps, are rated at 120Amp Hours and weigh in at a whopping 88lbs, each. In comparison, a typical car battery has about 600 cold cranking amps.

Through some rough math I was able to come up with a few numbers on capacity. With these batteries our 2 meter repeater with the amplifier should be able to last about 40 hours or 160 hours without the amplifier. The 70 centimeter repeater should last around 24 hours. These numbers will vary as use of the repeater varies. With no use at all, the repeater would be able to stand by for at least 240 hours which should be plenty of time during an emergency.

Tyler, KCØLCX

RECENT ITEMS FROM ARRL NEWSLETTERS

From Newsletter dated 02-01-08

ARKANSAS HEALTH DEPARTMENT SPONSORS AMATEUR RADIO TRAINING

The Arkansas Health Department transmitted Amateur Radio training via video conferencing to 13 hospital classrooms across the state on Saturday, January 19. According to John Nordlund, AD5FU, tactical communications assistant coordinator for the Arkansas Health Department, about 30 Northwest Arkansas residents participated in this year's training. The program, offered to participants at no cost, was sponsored by the Arkansas Health Department in cooperation with the Arkansas Amateur Radio Emergency Service. After completing the two-day training course, more than 180 students across the state earned their Technician class license.

Hospital employees, law enforcement officers, doctors and retirees attended the training session. "We've seen interest from an unbelievable number of retired people who are looking to do something good for their community and a way to spend their time," Nordlund said. "Being an Amateur Radio operator enables them to talk with people, make friends and stay in touch."

Nordlund said that in times of very difficult, large-area emergencies, "all the other communication systems we depend on tend to become overloaded or disrupted. During those emergencies, the Amateur Radio people are able to connect a communications network because they're used to doing it on a daily basis."

Amateur Radio operators often act as "unsung heroes" in the face of disaster, he said. "Recently, on the Pacific coast of Oregon, they had a huge flood and all communications were rendered inoperable. During a television news conference, the governor of Oregon stood up and said, 'Do you want to know who the real heroes are?' Then he pointed over to a group of guys with ham radios."

Though Arkansas has yet to suffer a widespread disaster, hospitals across the state are taking steps to prepare. "We had two employees who took the test in June, and this time we have six employees," said Mel Lopes, safety officer for Washington Regional Medical Center. "Four work in emergency services and two work in security. It's a good balance."

The Arkansas Health Department sponsored this year's training program to increase the number of Amateur Radio operators in the state. "It's not that there's a lack of interest, but maybe there's been a lack of availability," Nordlund said. "I've talked to a lot of people who've wanted to get involved for years, but they've never had an opportunity presented to them." -- Some information from the Northwest Arkansas Times

Notes from the AARL Board Meeting

Frenaye, as President of the ARRL Foundation, gave a report to the Board on the Foundation's activities. He said scholarships totaling \$60,000 were awarded in 2007; three new scholarships have been added for 2008. The Foundation's assets amount to approximately \$2.4 million, of which most supports the scholarship program. He noted that the number of deserving scholarship applicants greatly exceeds the number of available scholarships. Frenaye will continue to serve as President of the Foundation; Northwestern Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF; Midwest Division Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, and Eugene Hastings, W1VRK, were also selected to serve as Foundation Directors.

The dead line for applying for the 2008 Scholarships was February 1, 2008.

The following is one of the Scholarship listed:
Scholarship Name: **The Ray, NØRP & Katie, WØKTE Pautz Scholarship**

Award Amount: \$500 - \$1000 based on earnings

Number of Awards: One per year

License Requirement: General Class or higher

Regional Preference: Recipient shall be a resident of the ARRL Midwest Division (IA, KS, MO, NE)

Curricular Preference: Electronics, computer science or related field

Institution: Accredited 4-year college or university

Other: Must be an ARRL Member

* **Field Day Packets Coming Soon:** Get ready for ARRL Field Day, June 28-29, 2008. Packets will be available during the first week of February. Packets include the complete rules (including changes for 2008). Other reference items that will be available include forms, Section abbreviations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.

From the 1-11 Newsletter

* **New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool Released:** The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a new pool of 741 questions and 12 graphics <<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=338>> for the Amateur Extra class license. This pool will become effective for examinations given on or after July 1, 2008, and should be in service until June 30, 2012. It can be downloaded from the NCVEC Web site in Word, PDF or RTF formats. If you have any questions concerning the new Amateur Extra question pool, please contact the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee via e-mail "<qpc@ncvec.org>".

STORM SPOTTER TRAINING

March 13 Warrensburg, MO 7:00pm

W.C. Morris Science Building Auditorium on the University of Central Missouri campus 419 S. College Street in Warrensburg, MO

If you would rather attend a meeting at another location the full schedule of meetings can be viewed at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=outreach-schedule>

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend these talks. The presentation is roughly 2 hours and at no cost to the general public. A National Weather Service meteorologist will discuss various aspects of severe weather, storm spotting, and severe weather safety.

Many people who are fascinated by the weather have an interest in serving as a storm spotter. The National Weather Service needs real time reports of hail size, wind speed, and tornado development and known damage, in order to effectively warn the public. Even as new technology allows the Weather Service to issue warnings with more lead time, spotters will always serve as links between radar indications of severe weather and ground truth information

Sunday Night Net

We are very pleased that the number of check-ins to the Sunday Night ARRL/ARES net has increased since the first of the year. We have had 30 check-in a couple of nights and 32 one Sunday evening. We encourage more of you to meet with us. The net control duties are traded among members, who volunteer at our monthly meetings. We would welcome more net controls. Contact Rick, KBØVZP, if interested. Let's be prepared

WANT ADS

No new information received for this issue

This space is available at no charge to members for any items for sale or items wanted. Make contact by mail, e-mail, or phone:

WAARCI; P.O. Box 1364; Warrensburg, MO 64093 or
K. Pautz; 13 SE 125 Road, Warrensburg, MO
64093-7708

Phone 660 747-5002 or
E-mail rpautz@charter.net

TEST SESSION

WAARCI will hold a test session on March 8 at approximately 10:30 am after the Club Meeting. The other regular scheduled Test Sessions will be in July at the Hamfest and again in November after the Club Meeting.

For practice tests go to:



.OR

Try this one. It's one of NØRP's favorites

www.KBØMGA.net/exams

Isn't this "just another exam site?"

No, it isn't!

This site tries to learn which questions you know well, and which ones you need extra help with. It does this by tracking your answers to every question. It then applies a weight to each question, using the following priorities:

1st priority - questions you haven't seen yet

2nd priority - questions you have previously answered wrong

3rd priority - questions you have answered correctly

Using this system, you are guaranteed that you will eventually see all of the questions from a given test.

And, you are more likely to see questions that you need help with again and again until you get them right. I feel this is a great way to see what questions you need to work on.

73 and good luck on your exam!

Ron, KBØMGA

You will be asked to sign into the site.

This site tries to learn which questions you know, and which ones you don't by keeping track of your answers. To keep these statistics between sessions, the site needs a way to remember you. This is not mandatory, but it was the main reason this site was created.

Questions are available for all 3 Elements in either the Flash Card form or as a Practice Exam

**Hope to see you at the WAARCI Meeting
Saturday, February 9
Red Cross Building, Warrensburg
Talk-in 146.88**

Check-into the Sunday Night Net for updates of Club Activities

Remember the ARES Meeting Sunday, February 10, 3:00 pm

THE REPEATER

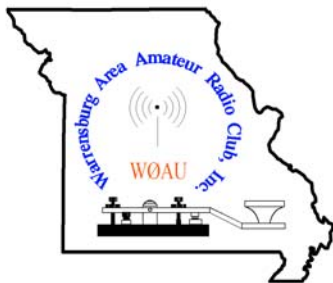
WAARCI Board, Editors
Katie Pautz WØKTE Compiler

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**WAARCI
P.O. Box 1364
Warrensburg, MO 64093**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb 9	Club meeting 9:00 am
Feb 10	ARES meeting 3:00 pm
Mar 8	Club meeting and Test Session
Mar 11	State wide Tornado Drill
Mar 13	Storm Spotter Training
Apr 19	Shrine Hambash
Jun 28 & 29	Field Day
Jul 19	WAARCI Hamfest