

The SPARKGAP



Volume 12

December 2009

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Merry Christmas



Next Meeting

The January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 5th, 2010. You are welcome to join all who want to eat, ordering off the

Hallie Eagles club menu, at 6:00 P.M. The meeting will follow dinner at 7:00 P.M.

Nets/Freqs/Times

- Badger Weather Net 3.985 - 0600
- Badger Emergency Net 3.985 - Noon
- Wisconsin Side Band Net 3.985 - 1715/1730
- ARES/RACES 3.977.5 - Sun - 1800

December Minutes

The December meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. with 23 members in attendance. Wendy Cohoon read the minutes and they were accepted as read. Diane Case then read the Treasures report which was accepted as read.

Constitution and By-laws committee reported that they

are almost finished with the current revisions.

Gene Radke announced that both Wendy and Diane will run again as secretary and treasurer, but we still need someone to run as Vice President.

Joe Eide and another member, yet to be selected, will be doing the upcoming financial audit for the club.

Ron Kruger has been in touch with 29 pines for the annual Valentines dinner. The date will be Thursday February 11th. Cost for the room is \$100.00 and the cost for the dinner will be \$12.99 for each person.

New Business, Membership drive and attendance were the topics. Ideas on how to increase both were discussed. i.e. talking to friends, clubs like boy scouts and youth groups.

Wendy brought to the club the idea of sponsoring a family for the Spirit of Christmas. After some discussion it was decided that the club would donate \$100.00 to the Spirit of Christmas and consider sponsoring a family next year after more info was gathered.

Ron Anderson reminded us about an Extra class license session that will be held starting April 3, 2010 for 5 Saturdays. He will post it on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50

Gale Sorum presented our fourth installment on power amplifiers and providing power to our power amplifiers.

DX News

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by IZ0EGM, NC1L, VK4ABD, QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, DXNL, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

TUNISIA, 3V. In celebration of its 10th anniversary members of the Tunisian scouts club station are QRV as 3V10A until December 31. QSL via bureau.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Eric, SM1TDE is QRV as C56SMT until January 3, 2010. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using only CW. QSL to home call.

ANGOLA, D2. Paulo, CT1ITZ is QRV as D2CQ from Porto Amboim

until December 27. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using only SSB. QSL direct via CT1IUA.

GERMANY, DA. Special event station DR09ANT will be QRV on December 14 to 30 to commemorate the "Worldwide Antarctic Program." Activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

DJIBOUTI, J2. Olivier, J28KO has been QRV on 20 meters using RTTY around 1500z. QSL via F6DKI.

SAN MARINO, T7. Aurelio, IZ0EGM will be QRV as T70A during the ARRL 10-Meter contest. QSL to home call.

WILLIS ISLAND, VK9W. Dave, VK4ABD will be QRV as VK9WBM while on work assignment at the Bureau of Meteorology in the Australian Coral Sea territories until July 2010. Activity will be on 40 meters and above during his spare time. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Bhagwati, VU3BPZ is QRV as AT10BP from the Indian Maitri Base and can be found active on 20 meters SSB around 0000 to 0130z. QSL via operator's instructions.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 10-Meter Contest, NCCC Sprint, Feld Hell Sprint, MDXA PSK DeathMatch, International Naval Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprint and the CQC Great Colorado CW Snowshoe Run are all scheduled for this weekend. The North America High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally runs from December 12 to 16. Please see December QST, page 66, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details. NNNN /EX

Amateur radio bill passes Senate goes to House

ZCZC AG37
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 37 ARLB037
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT December 16, 2009
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB037
ARLB037 Amateur Radio Bill Passes Senate, Moves to the House

On Monday, December 14, S 1755 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- passed the Senate by unanimous consent; the bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration. Sponsored by Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), S 1755, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study on emergency communications.

S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

Members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee considered S 1755 on December 10. After it passed through Committee, it was placed on the Senate's calendar to be voted on. "We are grateful to Committee Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins for sponsoring the bill and arranging for its swift consideration and passage by the Senate," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Similar in language to HR 2160 (also called The Amateur Radio Emer-

gency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 that was introduced this past April by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee [D-TX-18]), S 1755 calls on DHS to undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief and then to submit a report to Congress no more than 180 days after the bill becomes law. The study shall:

Include a review of the importance of Amateur Radio emergency communications in furtherance of homeland security missions relating to disasters, severe weather and other threats to lives and property in the United States, as well as recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts and improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.

Identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use regulations on residential antenna installations; and make recommendations regarding such impediments for consideration by other federal departments, agencies and Congress.

In conducting the study, S 1755 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to "utilize the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including the Amateur Radio, emergency response and disaster communications communities."

S 1755 makes note of the fact that Section 1 of the Joint Resolution entitled Joint Resolution to Recognize the Achievements of Radio Amateurs, and To Establish Support for Such Amateurs as National Policy -- approved October 22, 1994 (Public Law 103-408) -- included a finding that stated: "Reasonable accommodation should be made for the effective operation of Amateur Radio from residences, private vehicles and public areas, and the regulation at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage amateur radio operations as a public benefit."

The bill also pointed out that Section 1805(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 757(c)) directs the Regional Emergency Communications Coordinating Working Group of the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate their activities with ham and Amateur Radio operators among the 11 other emergency organizations, such as ambulance services, law enforcement and others.

NNNN
/EX

SkyWarn Recognition day

Story found at <http://www.crn.noaa.gov/axr/?n=ham2009>

Local amateur radio operators and members of the National Weather Service (NWS) participated in the 10th Annual **SKYWARN Recognition Day** on Saturday, December 5, 2009. AKYWARN Recognition day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the NWS. During the day SKYWARN operators visited NWS offices and contacted other radio operators across the world.

A majority of the equipment was setup on Friday, December 4th with the typical 1" of snow on the ground and cold conditions. Luckily one of the dipole antennas had been strung earlier so it went quick. Two high-frequency radios were used during the event to make contact around the U.S., North America, and parts of Europe.

While many of the visitors were from the La Crosse area, amateur radio operators and SKYWARN group leaders from, Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Clark and Juneau Counties in Wisconsin also visited and assisted. Over 30 people participated, enjoyed conversation and snacks.

There were several tours of the NWS La Crosse as well. Contacts were made in nearly every state, but also six international countries. Here is a summary:

- Hours operated: 9
- Total contacts made: 200
- Total U.S. States contacted: 43
- Total NWS offices contacted: 26
- Total foreign countries contacted: 6 (Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden)

Most of the operating was done on 2, 20, 40, and 80 meters, in addition to IRLP.

A special thanks goes out to the local operators who helped with setup (*) or radio operations, including

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tom O'Brien—WB9BJQ* | Mark Smick—N9NUW* |
| Ron Martinmaki—W9EOA* | Todd Shea—KB9YXS* |
| Larry Worthington—KC9HDP | Mike Mohler—W MBM |
| Bob Seaquist—KC9IWE | Tom Peterson—KC9ECI |
| Roger Reader—KA9BKK | Ron Anderson—W9RMA |
| Keith Butler—KC9IWL | Ron Krueger—W9JRW |
| Ron Larson - W9RLL | Paul Kohlmeier—KC9GBO |
| Van Elston—WA9FIO | Gerry Leff—N9LRV |
| Jim Netwal—W9UUM | Tim Dedenhardt— |
| John Wagner—KB9ULF | Carl Thurston— KC9HDS |

More pictures and info can be found at:

<http://www.crn.noaa.gov/arx/?n=ham2009>

Upcoming Exams

Jan 16th, 2010
 Eau Claire ARC 9:00am walk-ins
 Jonathan E. Case 715-834-1540
 JECASE@CHARTER.NET
 Grace Lutheran Church
 202 W. Grand Ave
 Eau Claire, WI



Use 2nd Avenue entrance

AREA REPEATERS

Albertville (link)	442.800	110.9
Albertville	444.350	110.9
Chippewa Falls	147.375	110.9
Eau Claire	146.91	110.9
Eau Claire	147.24	110.9
Eau Claire	443.300	110.9
Holcombe	145.47	110.9
Holcombe (link)	147.345	136.5
Holcombe	444.525	110.9
Menomonie	146.61	110.9
Osseo	145.33	110.9
Osseo	444.200	110.9

CVARC OFFICERS

President — Jim Fering K9BDN

President Elect — Skip Kruger W9JRW

Secretary — Wendy Cohoon KC9KGE

Treasurer — Diane Case KB9VYD

Past President — Gene Radke AB9GK

News letter — Wendy Cohoon KC9KGE

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