

# The Spectrum

April 2009

WWW.W4CAR.ORG

## Looking for a tube for an old radio?

The Idaho Society of Radio Amateurs-Magic Valley Chapter operates an amateur radio tube bank. While the supply is not tremendous (about 2000 tubes), there might be a chance we would have what an amateur would need to restore an old radio.

The club asks for \$3 per tube ordered for shipping and handling. If you have old tubes (that are good) you might want to donate them to the cause also.

The trustee is:

wb7cyo, L. D. Bunch,  
1095 Plainview Dr,  
Twin Falls, ID 83301.

An SASE will bring you an updated three page list. You can e-mail me at [wb7cyo@micron.net](mailto:wb7cyo@micron.net)...allow a few days for an answer as my schedule does not allow me to check mail everyday.

Reprinted with permission from Ham Radio *Online* magazine, available for free on the Internet at <http://www.hamradio-online.com>

## 60 Great Things About Ham Radio

"In celebration of *CQ* magazine's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005, the *CQ* staff came up with 60 great things about ham radio, written up by *CQ* Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU: "

Here are some of my favorites.

1. Ham radio works when nothing else does
28. Practical uses for high school math
29. Practical uses for high school physics
44. A good way to collect really cool postcards from around the world
58. Experimenting with new modes & new technology

Go to <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/60Great.html> and see the whole list.

Send your favorites to [w4carva@gmail.com](mailto:w4carva@gmail.com) and I'll post them in *The Spectrum*.

## Upcoming Events

- World Amateur Radio Day — April 18
- Tour de Cure — April 18
- Dismal Swamp Stomp — April 18
- Field Day — June 27-28

### Italian

**Earthquake**

**Emergency**

**Frequencies:**

**7045 and**

**3640 kHz**

**These are unofficial frequencies. There are no official ones assigned.**

## DX QSLING from CARS and WA4BUE

Did you know many of your Outgoing DX QSL Cards can be handled by CARS?

Currently I [Richard WA4BUE] am the CARS QSL guy. So you get on the air and you work some DX stations and decide that you want to exchange QSL Cards.

1. Send to your ARRL Incoming QSL Bureau 4 or 5 Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes (SASE) 5X7 or 6X9. So the Bureau can send you the DX QSL Cards they receive for you. You can find your ARRL QSL Bureau on the ARRL WEB site.

2. Look up the DX station you contacted on QRZ.COM or some other DX data base.

Note: Often the DX station will tell you who to send your QSL Card to

3. Determine if that station has a QSL Manager.

- If there is a QSL Manager in the U.S., you can send your QSL card to that manager with a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (your SASE),

- If there is a overseas QSL Manager you will have to send your card in an envelope (Currently \$.94 postage to foreign countries) and \$2 - \$5 to receive a QSL Card. If it is a rare country, you probably want to send your QSL direct. For non-rare countries, you can try sending your QSL via the ARRL outgoing QSL bureau. It's much cheaper, but it can take two or three years to get a card back.

4. To use the outgoing bureau, check on the DX ARRL list of countries and see if there is a DX QSL Bureau for that country. If there is no QSL Bureau for that Country you will have to send your card direct to a DX QSL Manager, if there is one, or direct to the station you worked.

5. Often you will work a DX Club Station or Special Event Station, in these cases the data base may tell you to send the card to another amateur call. In this case when you fill out your QSL card on the back write the call that the card should be sent to according to the data base.

6. If the card is to be sent to the call you worked write that call on the back of the QSL card.

7. Cards to Alaska, Hawaii, and US Territories should be sent direct with SASE envelope.

8. All outgoing QSL Cards should be delivered in Numeric / Alphabetical order to WA4BUE so they can be sent to the ARRL Out Going QSL Bureau. 9. Do not write your call sign or the call sign of the DX station on the outside of your envelope if you send a QSL to a DX manager or to the DX station. In many foreign countries, the mail carriers know that envelopes with call signs on them have cash inside. They are easily stolen, and you will never get a QSL.

10. Place your SASE in the envelope with the flap down so that it doesn't get cut off when the recipient opens your envelope.

11. Wrap a piece of paper around your QSL, SASE, and cash. That way, it looks like a letter and there is less chance of getting ripped off.

12. Check QRZ.COM or one of the other DX databases for QSLing. Follow the instructions to the letter. Some DX stations only want International Reply Coupons (IRCs) because of the theft problems. Some DX stations want more than \$2 or \$3 to send a QSL back. Unfortunately, some DX stations using QSLing as a revenue generator. In a few countries, \$2 won't cover the postage to send a QSL back.

There are other pay QSL services you may choose to use.

## Licensed Ham for over 25 years?

How many years ago did you receive your first Amateur Radio license? If your answer is more than 25, then you're in! If less than that magic number, you have something special to work towards!

A quarter of a century or longer in Amateur Radio results in a knowledgeable, experienced 'ham', ready to offer guidance to others, whether just beginning or somewhere along the way in this interesting hobby.

The elite organization called QCWA - the Quarter Century Wireless Association - is ready to welcome you within its ranks!

Members can be found in 20+ countries around the globe! Lots of activities take place on and off the air - awards, certificates, contests, scholarships, luncheons and dinners to name a few. Many gather annually at the QCWA convention that is held in a variety of cities, or occasionally, like this year, on a cruise.

Your local club is very important! QCWA is unique!

Ever on the watch for the betterment of Amateur Radio!

QCWA: The Amateur Radio Way

Information about QCWA and QCWA membership can be found on the national web site at <http://www.qcwa.org>.

Local contacts for QCWA Chapter 119 include President Ron, W8RJL ([youngron@verizon.net](mailto:youngron@verizon.net)) and Secretary Vic, W4VIC ([vic@w4vic.com](mailto:vic@w4vic.com)).

**How many  
years ago  
did you  
receive your  
first Amateur  
Radio  
license?**

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## Springfest Licensing Exams

One of the highlights of Springfest was our Volunteer Examiner (VE) license examination session. With much appreciated assistance from VBARC's President Steve Batton W4XQ and our ARRL Section Manager Carl Clements W4CAC, we held our largest ever exam session with twenty one examinees.

The results were very gratifying – ten new hams, four of whom went on to pass their General exam and will begin their Ham radio experience with HF privileges.

Please be on the lookout for these new ops, KJ4KTU through KJ4KUD, and help them gain the same satisfaction we enjoy from our hobby.

Six other Hams earned upgrades – three new Generals, and three new Extras! They are now in the FCC data base, so expect a little more competition on the air, and that really is a good thing for the art of Ham radio. Let's make all of them welcome.

## March 2009 — Survey Results

Nineteen people took this online survey. To save space, I did not list the answers that had a 0% answer rate or the specific "other" responses. If you are interested in seeing all the possible answers, just send me an email.

w4carva@gmail.com

1. Do you read The Spectrum Newsletter? [ Occasionally:11%, / Other: 11% / Yes—Every Month: 74% / Yes—Most of them: 5% ]

2. Do you like the new layout of The Spectrum Newsletter? [ It's ok: 27.8% / Yes: 72.2% ]

3. How is the font size? [ Just right: 94.4% / Too Big: 5.6% ]

4. Number of graphics or pictures? [ Need More: 33.3% / Just Right: 61.1% / Don't want any graphics: 5.6% ]

5. What topics are you interested in? (See Page 5 )

6. Tell me about the topics you are interested but not list above (in question 5)

- Technical side of measuring and assembling of quality coax and antenna installs.
- Club announcements Documentation of club activities / events
- Misc. HF antenna projects for newbe's
- Many of us are old timers - how about how the hobby has changed (just changed or for the better no grousing allowed). Might be interesting for the QC crowd as well as the newcomers.
- Computer articles, build prjs, old radio rpr, solar/battery power, antennas, radio stories from past/ present, new radio reviews by members
- LIKE TO SEE PICS OF SHACKS AND WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING, EXAMPLE KI4RXC ON HIS SAIL BOAT AND W1ATA BUILDING HIS SHACK. ALSO PICS OF ANTENNAS
- Any type of new nets
- Live Internet Stream Feeds
- I'm interested in every aspect of Ham Radio.
- building antennas, how certain radio parts work, somewhat technical stuff use of Freq. counters
- Building and experimenting. Micro programming with C. Gadgets of the scientific nature. Antenna measurement (theoretical gain) Moon bounce (maybe one day I'll get there) EME. Hidden transmitter hunting. Spectrum analysis. Switching power supplies. Opto-electronics. So much to do, so little time.
- Home brewing station equipment and antennas. Antenna modeling to design antennas.

7. Would you like more surveys like this? [ No: 26.3% / Other: 21.1% / Yes 52.6% ]

8. Would you be interested in an interactive on-line version of The Spectrum? The exact same articles would be available on-line as in the PDF downloadable version. One of the differences would be you can post and read comments about the articles on-line. [ Yes: 47.4% / Maybe: 21.1% / No: 21.1% / Been waiting for it: 10.5% ]

## March 2009 — Survey Results—*continued*

5. What topics are you interested in?

	Very Interested	Somewhat Intersted	Indifferent	Not really interested	Don't want to read about it
6 meters and above	9 (56.3%)	6 (37.5%)	1 (6.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Under 6 meters	11 (64.7%)	5 (29.4%)	1 (5.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Emergency Commnication	9 (52.9%)	3 (17.6%)	3 (17.6%)	1 (5.9%)	1 (5.9%)
Legal	2 (13.3%)	6 (40%)	5 (33.3%)	2 (13.3%)	0 (0%)
ARRL	3 (17.6%)	11 (64.7%)	2 (11.8%)	1 (5.9%)	0 (0%)
Contesting	4 (25%)	8 (50%)	1 (6.3%)	3 (18.8%)	0 (0%)
DX-Peditions	5 (29.4%)	6 (35.3%)	3 (17.6%)	3 (17.6%)	0 (0%)
Public Relations	5 (31.3%)	3 (18.8%)	5 (31.3%)	2 (12.5%)	1 (6.3%)
Satellite	4 (23.5%)	8 (47.1%)	2 (11.8%)	2 (11.8%)	1 (5.9%)
APRS, GPS	4 (23.5%)	3 (17.6%)	6 (35.3%)	3 (17.6%)	1 (5.9%)
PSK31, PACTOR, FAX, etc	0 (0%)	7 (46.7%)	5 (33.3%)	3 (20%)	0 (0%)
Echo Link	2 (12.5%)	6 (37.5%)	5 (31.3%)	2 (12.5%)	1 (6.3%)
D-STAR	2 (13.3%)	3 (20%)	5 (33.3%)	4 (26.7%)	1 (6.7%)
EME, Meteor	3 (18.8%)	5 (31.3%)	5 (31.3%)	2 (12.5%)	1 (6.3%)
CW	3 (20%)	8 (53.3%)	2 (13.3%)	2 (13.3%)	0 (0%)
Voice - AM, FM, SSB	11 (64.7%)	4 (23.5%)	2 (11.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
SSTV	1 (6.3%)	8 (50%)	4 (25%)	2 (12.5%)	1 (6.3%)
Hunting	0 (0%)	6 (40%)	3 (20%)	4 (26.7%)	2 (13.3%)
Blogging	0 (0%)	3 (20%)	4 (26.7%)	5 (33.3%)	3 (20%)
Pocasting	0 (0%)	2 (13.3%)	5 (33.3%)	5 (33.3%)	3 (20%)
QRP	2 (13.3%)	4 (26.7%)	8 (53.3%)	1 (6.7%)	0 (0%)
Interviews of members	7 (38.9%)	6 (33.3%)	3 (16.7%)	2 (11.1%)	0 (0%)

## Thanks for taking the survey!

I want to thank everyone who took the March 2009 survey. I will be using these results to shape *The Spectrum* into a publication reflecting the interests of the club. If you see a topic listed on which you want to share your expertise or experience, please send me your article. [w4carva@gmail.com](mailto:w4carva@gmail.com)

Fourteen people entered to have a chance at winning the two gig thumb drive. The winner will be chosen by random at the April 2009 shack day at 11:00. You have to be present to win.

## President's Column

Another Springfest is now behind us, and I'm delighted to report it was not just another success, but was a significantly bigger success than any previous Springfest. Everyone had a good time – CARS members, vendors, and the attendees. That continues to be our main objective.

I would like to thank every person that volunteered to work on Springfest, and I would thank each of you individually, but I fear I might overlook someone that helped to make this such a success. So even if you aren't called out by name, be sure the club appreciates what you did to help. Of course we also have to thank the Moose Lodge for hosting us – they continue to help us through a shared interest in public service to our community. And of course we have to be thankful for the fine weather we enjoyed – that was a pleasant change from the past several years.

As reported below, Springfest provided the opportunity for ten folks to become new Hams, and also for six already licensed Hams to upgrade their licenses. I'm glad to report that five of those new Hams resulted from CARS' and VBARC's joint Technician license class this Spring. CARS and VBARC will hold Technician and General license classes in June, and also General and Extra classes in mid-August – September.

This month will be another public service opportunity to provide communications for the American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure bicycle race on Saturday, April 18. This is CARS # 1 non-emergency public service event, and it is part of our resume that justifies our existence and the benefits which the City, the Moose Lodge, and others give to us. At the very least, this is a very pleasant day in the bucolic rural Chesapeake / NC countryside. Please contact me so that we can plan your place in this very worthwhile and pleasurable event.

Immediately after Tour de Cure, CARS will resume our efforts to ready the Chesapeake Disaster Shelters for the coming hurricane season. We have eight school buildings that need new or upgraded antenna and coax installations. We intend for City personnel to do the majority of the installation work, but we need CARS folks to "assist" (guide) these City installers and do the more critical work of installing PL-259 connectors and waterproofing them. Can you help during weekdays in late April and May? Let me know. We will also be reprogramming shelter radios with our emergency communications frequency plan and resuming our search for some of the more elusive emergency power outlets in the shelters.

73,

Paul K4PRB

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## April 2009 Club Poll

The April 2009 CARS' poll is:

*"Your HF amateur radio "base" is from which manufacturer?"*

<http://tinyurl.com/200904w4car>

This poll will close on April 30, 2009 @ 23:59.

The results will be published in the May 2009 edition of *The Spectrum*.



## Club Meeting Minutes March 2, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:40

### Dinner Meeting

Motion to suspend usual order of business made by WA9KFB seconded by K5VIP.

Paul K4PRB thanked Richard Siff, Bill Runyon, Vince Williams and Tracy

Wood for assisting at the WHRO February 18th switch to digital TV.

Paul on behalf of the club bid a fond farewell to Forrest WB5HQO on his move to Texas.

Technician licensing class begins on Saturday March 7th•

Due to Springfest being held on March 22rd• Shack Day will be rescheduled to Saturday, March 28th•

### Springfest:

A call for additional volunteers for Set Up & Clean Up was made. We have eight volunteers at present with a need for seven more.

A call was also made for volunteers to direct parking & sell tickets to tailgaters. We have one volunteer at present and need five more.

### New Business:

Jim WB4UVH, made a motion to approve new member applicants, seconded by Forrest WB5HQO.

Welcome New Members: Scot Reneger KJ4AV, JR Reneger KJ4HNO, Norman Harris KJ4IWY, Jason Harris KJ4IWX and Charles Chapman WIWTG.

50150 drawing won by Forrest WB4HQO

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55

## CARS Officers and Chairpersons

### **President**

Paul Buckwalter  
K4PRB

### **Communications Officer**

Jim Rogers  
KG4WOJ

### **Trustee**

Bill Runyon  
WF4R

### **Vice-President**

Vince Williams  
KJ4CCR

### **Public Service /ECOMM**

Sean Gorman  
W5CDR

### **Past President**

Keith Ainsley  
KG4Z XK

### **Secretary**

Phil Henline  
WA9KFB

### **Repeater Committee**

Chairman  
Bill Runyon  
WF4R

### **Webmaster**

Www.w4car.org  
Sean Gorman  
W5CDR

### **Treasurer**

Barry Priddy  
K5VIP

**Have a  
comment or  
suggestion for  
the  
newsletter?**

**w4carva@  
gmail.com**



## Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service

P.O. Box 6867  
Chesapeake, Va 23323-6867

W4CAR@ARRL.NET

QRM Room / Clubhouse  
116 Reservation Drive  
Chesapeake, Va 23322-5204

Meetings are the first Monday of  
each month in the QRM Room

The Spectrum Editor  
W4CARVA@GMAIL.COM

## Local Nets

**CARS 2 Meter Net**  
Sundays 20:00 Hrs  
146.820 MHz (162.2)

**CARS 10 Meter Net**  
Mondays 20:00 Hrs  
Excluding meeting days  
28.400 MHz

**VBARC 10 Meter Net**  
Thursdays 20:00 Hrs  
28.400 MHz

**Hampton Roads  
Public Service Net**  
Monday through Saturday  
146.070 MHz

**Portsmouth "Rag Chew" Net**  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
19:30 Hrs 146.850 MHz

**Southeastern VA Traffic Net**  
Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
20:00 Hrs 146.850 MHz

**Portsmouth Amateur Radio Emer-  
gency Services Net**  
Fridays 20:00 Hrs  
146.850 MHz

**VBCert Net**  
Second Tuesday of the Month  
19:00 Hrs  
146.985 MHz

## QRM

There is a new browser toolbar dedi-  
cated to amateur radio. HamInfoBar will  
soon to be a amateur radio operator's  
best friend.

"This tool bar will help you get the latest  
up to date DX news, articles, cluster  
spots, propagation predictions, as well  
as quick access to ITU, Zone and sev-  
eral other maps ... I now use it daily!" -  
Paul K4UJ founder of dx-is.com

Web Site:

<http://www.haminfo.com>

Video: [http://www.g0dpc.co.uk/  
flash\\_demo/screenshot.html](http://www.g0dpc.co.uk/flash_demo/screenshot.html)

Is there someone in the club that will  
like to take this toolbar for a spin and  
submit an article?

