

# Static



The Starved Rock Radio Club newsletter for February 2009

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### **Constitution change vote next month**

Club members attending the August 3 meeting will decide whether to change the qualifications for club office holders. Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chairman Mark Gebhardt proposed the changes at the July meeting.

Club officers would have to be one year above the age of majority in Illinois and would have to be club members for at least a year. In other words, an officer would have to be 19 years old.

Mark says members can approve, reject, or change the proposal in August.

### **Club replaces damaged 2-meter antenna**

The 2-meter antenna damaged in an ice storm last December was replaced on July 11. Anyone using the W9MKS repeater since the ice storm has had to deal with a highly directional pattern that beamed toward Chicago, but couldn't pick up 25-watt signals from nearby Oglesby.

Preliminary results after the new antenna's installation were very good. Pictures from the antenna installation were posted at

<http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/newant/newant.html>.

### **Mic goof cripples ARES net**

A participant in the ARES net on the W9MKS repeater Sunday, July 26 crippled the net

apparently by pushing the wrong button on his radio and walking away. The repeater, locked on to the nearly dead carrier, transmitted the sounds of whatever was happening in the participant's home for several minutes. The sounds included his telephone ringing when net control Joe Tokarz KB9EZZ tried to alert him to the problem.

Eventually, the repeater timed out but the participant's radio did not. So, the club's repeater picked up the errant signal and relayed it again for several minutes.

FCC rules impose a maximum three-minute timeout limit on transmitters in the event of malfunction. Many hams would say good practices require that an amateur radio operator disconnect his mic when the radio will be unattended.

### **LaSalle County Board awards EOC contract**

Vissering Construction of Streator was chosen July 9 as the contractor to build a new LaSalle County Emergency Operations Center near the Etna Road courthouse. The company submitted the lowest bid at \$1.55 million. That's somewhat higher than county officials expected, but architect Robert Johnson feels the county got a good deal because 16 contractors bid and the next lowest bid was just \$200 higher than Vissering's.

Construction is likely to start in August and last around nine months.

One feature in the plans is an antenna tower, which some area hams are hoping to be allowed to put a repeater antenna on.

### **Obituary - Barto**

Nils "Buck" Barto Jr., 48, of Spring Valley died Friday, July 3. A memorial service was held at Mueller Funeral Home in Peru. His call sign was N9PLJ.

Nils had been a member of several amateur radio clubs: Illinois Valley Radio Association, Tri-County Amateur Radio Society, Red Covered Bridge Radio Club, Geen Bay Mic and Key Club, Tearug Radio Club, Starved Rock Radio Club, and Streator Amateur Radio Club.

For SRRC, he served as Hamfest Chairman for many years. Nils also was involved with the Peru Emergency Services and Disaster Agency. Memorials may be made to Pay-It-Forward House in Sycamore or Illinois Valley Animal Rescue in Peru.

### **Cronkite was a ham**

Venerated newsman Walter Cronkite died July 17. The 92-year old had an amateur radio license. His call sign was KB2GSD.