



STATIC

A Monthly Publication of the Starved Rock Radio Club Vol. 74 Issue 08

August 2006

Monthly Meeting...

Tom, KC9EGB

Meeting began at 7:05 pm with 21 members present.

The minutes of the July meeting was passed to the group. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report was read and approved. The ending balance was \$12,208.49

Old Business:

Bill, KA9FER mentions the extreme race and thanks to all that helped.

Mark wants to scrap club's generator. Passed out pictures of unit. Cecil, KB9LNK

expressed interest in buying generator. Tom, KC9EGB may have buyer and takes pictures to show to possible buyers.

Activities: Kurt, KB9RKU has membership booklet almost ready.

Building and Grounds: Pat, KC6VVT had friend stop by to cut grass, but grass will need cutting soon.

Repeater Monitor: Rich, N9OUW was not present.

Repeater Maintenance: Frank, KF9NZ and Bill decided to attack noise problem. Changed out section of hardline from splice at bottom of antenna to duplexer. Repeater is working much better now. Frank is tweaking cooling fans. Frank and Bill talked about new antenna plus new hardline. Should be delivered in 4-6 weeks. Discussed options.

Frank and Tom working on renewal of Special Service Club designation.

New Business:

2006 Budget vote. Tom read the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on July 22.

Proposed Budget for July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

\$100 Field Day
\$200 Donations
\$500 Antennas
\$200 Repeater
\$5527.50 Hamfest
\$2000 Utilities
\$473 Tax
\$990 Insurance
\$220 Building
\$165 Equipment

Bill went over each line item. Discussion of changing some amounts has to wait until vote to accept/ decline the budget. Motion to vote on budget is made by Frank and seconded by Kurt. Budget is approved. Pat makes motion to purchase one piece of transceiver equipment up to \$500. Tom seconds. Motion fails. Greg, KC9HVV makes motion to make Equipment budget \$665 (\$165 +\$500) Pat seconds. Motion fails. Bill says we should think about this equipment purchase and bring it up next meeting. New antenna vote Eldon, KB9PZA motions to spend \$400 on new antenna. Bob, AB9EE seconds. Motion carries.

Pat brings up Work Saturday. Frank says backroom still needs attention. Plan to work on backroom on Saturday. Start at 10 am.

Mark, K9ZQ has two Icom hats for door prizes. Hat are given out.

Motion to adjourn by Greg. Tom seconds. Meeting ended at 8:08 pm.

Recorded by Tom Chromzack, KC9EGB

Extreme Race Round Up Joe, KB9EZZ

On July 29, 2006 from 0400hrs until 1900hrs, 21 ham radio operators provide communications support for LaSalle County Emergency Management during the Mid-America Extreme Adventure Race held at Starved Rock State Park and surrounding areas. Among these 21 ham radio operators from LaSalle, Lee, Bureau, Grundy, Putnam and DeKalb counties, 149 total manpower hours of communication support was provided through pre-determined checkpoints and travel with race officials keeping tabs on teams as they ran, biked, and kayaked the race course. Over 234 messages were passed through ham radio operators. Hams providing services during this event were:

Austin KB9UTF

Bob WB9YWR

Bonnie KC9IZT

Brad KA9WRZ

Clint KC9IZR

Dan KC9HVX

Dave KC9IDH

Dave N9OWQ

Dennis KC9EXG

Eric KC9DUX

Frank KF9NZ

Frank N9JWI

Jamison KB9UKW
Kevin KC9FQE
Will KC9HVW

Jeff KC9DLA
Oggie N9JNK

Joe KB9EZZ
Phil K9NYX

Keith KB9VFX
Rita KC9IZU

The Leonore and Marseilles Repeater were used for this exercise.

Nuclear Exercise to be held in November

Joe, KB9EZZ

On November 15th, at least 12 hams will be needed to support the LaSalle County Emergency Management during the LaSalle Station Nuclear Exercise. We will be needed at the LaSalle County EOC in Ottawa, the communities of Marseilles, Seneca, and Grand Ridge and at the Brookfield Township Building from approximately 8a-3pm. It would be nice to have 2 hams at each location, pair up a new operator with a veteran. For the exercise will be using voice and the Outpost packet program. A copy of Outpost can be downloaded at <http://www.cupertinoares.org/projects/outpost/>.

The following training sessions will be held to prepare for this drill:

Saturday, September 30, 2006

SRRC Clubhouse, Leonore

10a – Noon

Technical Session on handling / sending NARS Messages with Outpost

Saturday, October 21, 2006

Shabbona Park, Ottawa (see attached JOTA article)

8 am

Dress Rehearsal

Thursday, October 26, 2006

LaSalle County EOC, Ottawa

6pm – 8pm

IEMA Telecommunicator Training

- - This training consists of an overview of the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents (IPRA) and the issue and use of dosimetry to control exposure to ionizing radiation. All persons who are currently registered as an IPRA responder or who may be new to the position should attend.

Telecommunicator - Approximate time: 1 hour

This training consists of a review of the responsibilities as specified in the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents (IPRA), the use of the Nuclear Accident Reporting System form and operation of the outdoor warning siren network.

Jamboree On The Air

Joe, KB9EZZ

Ottawa, September 20, 2006) -- Starved Rock Radio Club (SRRC) Amateur Radio operators will assist scouts in making World-Wide radio contacts during the Jamboree-On-The-Air on Saturday October 21st at Chief Shabbona County Park.

According to Joe Tokarz of the SRRC, "We hope to make this the fifth year we contact former scouts on the International Space Station!"

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. But few people realize that each year more than 400,000 Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). Modern technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without leaving home.

JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves. Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years.

With no restrictions on age or on the number of participants, JOTA allows Scouts to contact each other by ham radio. The radio stations are operated by licensed ham radio operators.

JOTA operations will be at Chief Shabbona County Park just North Ottawa.

Set up begins Saturday at 8am. Examinations for the Federal Amateur Radio license will be from 10am to Noon.

For more information, contact Joe Tokarz kb9ezz@arrl.net.

As a reminder, here are the frequencies we will be using:

1--147.12 + 103.5 Leonore
2--146.745 - 114.8 Marseilles
3--146.55 simplex
4--147.54 simplex
147.555 packet

Get Well Wishes....

Joe, K9PHW, is at home resting comfortably after undergoing a surgical procedure. Please drop him a get well wish at k9phw@hotmail.com

Chicago's Big 89 – WLS 890 AM

Keith, KB9VFX

***I found this article online and it seemed rather interesting. The article excerpts have been reprinted with permission from www.wlsam.com courtesy of station engineer Warren G Shulz.

How the Big 89 works....

Chicago's Big 89 is now WLS 890 AM. In 1989 the 50,000-watt clear-channel radio giant introduced a new format, and now is watched industry wide as a high powered, issue oriented talk radio station.

Fast-paced, no-holds-barred discussion is encouraged on WLS. Issues are explored in depth, tapping WLS listeners' collective desire to express themselves on international, national, and -- most importantly -- local subjects. At the cutting edge of conversation WLS aggressively tackles issues other stations within the market have previously avoided. The format is flexible enough to react to changing events, and is the forum newsmakers and opinion-shapers can turn to in order to gauge public sentiment. WLS also features news, weather, and traffic reports 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Newstalk 890 is a magnet to listeners preferring dynamic, insightful, informative, and entertaining radio. WLS does more than just react to the news... it provides a true "Electronic Town Hall." This is evidenced by the unprecedented coverage on all Chicago TV stations, Good Morning America, the Today Show, Nightline and other media outlets. WLS is the place they come for immediate reaction from listeners on major events. Long renowned as a station of larger-than-life personalities, WLS continues its tradition in a new and exciting direction that has seen WLS re-asserting itself as one of Chicago's most important radio outlets.

If you are having trouble receiving WLS and your radio has controls for treble and bass then turn the treble all the way down and the bass up. If you have a control for tone only then turn it all the way down. Many inexpensive radios do not have these controls, but if your radio does have these controls this is an easy solution that will help to eliminate objectionable high frequency sound of the noise or static.

Second, reception of WLS radio works better near outside walls i.e. near

windows. Avoid areas enclosed (meaning shielded) by metal, brick, or concrete. There is an exception to this rule. If there is a source of interference you may improve your reception by moving away from it. You need to optimize signal and reduce interference. I will review more on interference later. Why does this happen to WLS-AM and not my FM stations? Well It's all about wavelength. The ratio of wavelength between AM and FM broadcast is a 100 to 1. Recall AM stations are nominal 1 MHz and FM stations are in the range of 100 MHz. AM Broadcast wavelength is on the order of 1100-feet long per cycle in free space (i.e. open air). On the other hand the FM wavelength is a nominal 10-feet long. In short-wave jargon it is common to refer to radio bands in wavelength. In fact, you will hear the Citizens Band called the 11-meter band. What the person is saying the frequency has a wavelength of 11 meters (36-feet). So we call AM band the medium wave band at nominal 300 meters. In fact, you could identify transmission channel by its wavelength only as wavelength and frequency are related. I can resist telling you WLS is 337.079 meters on your AM band. This would not be a warm feel to tell listeners to tune into 337 meters for news and information. That actual has some value and I just have to tell you why. The broadcast antenna needs to be a 1/2-wave length long for best coverage. So if you get to Metric to English conversion recalling from your High School physics class you will remember the conversion is factor is 3.28084 and doing the math results in a wavelength of 1,105.3-feet. If you take 1/2 the value for the antenna is 552.8 feet. Yes, the entire length of the tower is the radiator. The tower rest atop on a ceramic insulator and the support guy wires are insulated from the structure. The entire structure is the vertical radiator.

Also for a little tidbit of information from elsewhere in this lengthy article....

On I-290 you will note two large towers on the west side of the I-90 extension with one near Besterfield road.

One is WGN 720, and the other is WBBM 780. Another that is nearby is WSCR 670. All three radiate 50,000 watts none directional 24/7 just like WLS does.

The difference is WLS is 33 miles south of this location with its 50,000 watt none directional tower at I-80 and Route 45. About 1 mile from WGN your radio will see a signal level of 2,600 millivolts per meter. At that location WLS produces 13 millivolts per meter. With a 46 dB difference your radio doesn't know what to do. Its overloaded by the three strong nearby signals at 670, 720, and 780. Different radios will handle this condition in different ways. Some work just fine and others go into total failure or something in between. Generally, we have seen Ford product fail and GM survive. Newer designs may be more prone to overload that older designs. Its a condition that the radio designer did not think about. This is one of the few places on the planet you can find three 50 kw non-directional stations located within a 3 mile triangle.

While none of this solves the issue at the least you can understand why it happens. Generally, most radios will perform okay when the desired to undesired does not exceed 40 dB (100 to one ratio). What is not obvious while you are tuned to 890 the radio actual sees and selects from the AM dial the signal you want. The undesired signals are still affecting the receiver's performance. One symptom is call cross modulation...The stronger signal audio appears on the weaker signal. This is a classic receiver overload symptom. Its a challange to design a radio receiver that will function in this environment.

Finally here is the email I received from Mr. Shulz:

From "Shulz, Warren G" <Warren.G.Shulz@abc.com>
Date 2006/09/19 Tue PM 12:03:44 CDT
To srrc_static@verizon.net
CC "Sgariglia, Keith P" <Keith.P.Sgariglia@abc.com>
Subject White paper

Keith,

I wrote that article with several revisions and researching various sources to get a handle on what the general public could digest and get value out of. I get at least two emails a week about reception of WLS. I always make reference to this article. It's amazing how the pubic struggles for good reception.

I enjoy the Starved Rock area and spent some time camping SRSP and bicycle riding along the IMC. A lot of history in the area.

Go ahead and capture what works for you. Do mention WLSAM.COM as the source and give reader a path to WLS web site. I always enjoy listening to WLS myself. You might also sample 94.7 True Oldies. No new songs but a lot of classics.

Keep the amateur radio service alive. In time of stress you are the survivable com link.

Warren Shulz
Chief Engineer
WLS Radio

Upcoming Events.....

Sat Sept. 30, 2006
SRRRC Clubhouse, Leonore IL
10a-Noon

Technical Session – NARS Messages
VE Testing – Noon – 3pm

Mon Oct. 2, 2006
SRRRC Clubhouse, Leonore IL
7pm
Monthly Membership Meeting

Sat Oct 21, 2006
Shabbona Park, 12 miles No. of Ottawa
8am
Jamboree on the Air
Dress Rehearsal for Nuke Exercise 1 – 3pm
VE Session 10am

Thurs, Oct 26, 2006
LaSalle County EOC, Ottawa
6pm-9pm
IEMA Telecommunicator Training

WEEKLY EVENTS

7pm
Wednesday
SRRRC Net

7pm
Sunday
LaSalle County ARES Net

8am
Burger King, Ottawa
LaSalle County ARES Breakfast



Will KC9HVW, Joe KB9EZZ and Kevin KC9FQE..photo taken by KC9EXG, Dennis
at Mid-America Extreme Race
