



# KC9OAS NEWS

NOVEMBER, 2009

INFORMATION FOR THE EVANSTON AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY

THE EARC IS AN ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

[www.evanstonhams.org](http://www.evanstonhams.org)

## N9EWJ PRESENTS VINTAGE RADIO NIGHT AT NOVEMBER 23 MEETING



Marc, N9EWJ, will present "Vintage Radio Night," which will begin with a silent film (flowery titles and all) produced in the 1920s for RCA. A promotional piece for RCA radio tubes, it is a tale of two lovers brought together by the hero's success in the booming radio business. There are many glimpses of RCA radios of the era as well as some interesting scenes showing vacuum tube manufacture. Following the film will be a power point review of some of Marc's vintage radio restorations as published in Monitoring Times Magazine.

In addition to the program, we will have elections for 2010 officers (see following article) and we will discuss having a holiday dinner for hams and friends at an Evanston restaurant instead of a December meeting.

The EARC meeting will be Monday, November 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Department Training Room, 909 Lake Street. You may park in the lot across the street if you come on time and sign in on the Police Department sheet so that you won't be ticketed for parking there.

## 2010 OFFICER ELECTION

The election of the officers for the coming year will take place at the November 23 meeting. The nominations were approved at the October 26 meeting. They are:

President:

Marilyn, W9LUO

Technical Director:

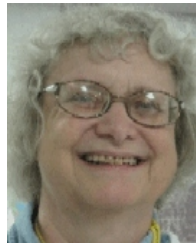
Scott, W8UFO

Secretary/Treasurer:

Chuck, W4TVW

Program Director:

Michael, KC9OPV



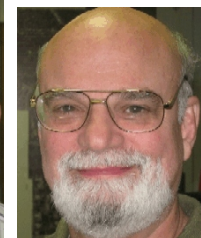
W9LUO



W8UFO



W4TVW



KC9OPV

People wishing to join the board doing other things are welcome. Some things that could be done by people other than the current board members include: setting up sprints; Field Day planning; organizing classes; recruiting youth; putting out the monthly newsletter (on time!) and finding appropriate public service events for members to practice their communication skills. Volunteer if any of these appeal to you!

## HOLIDAY DINNER?

Members and friends (including spouses) are invited to attend a holiday dinner for socializing with fellow hams this December. We will decide details at the November 23 meeting. Suggested date is December 7. Suggested place is Prairie Moon, 1502 Sherman Avenue. Comments and other suggestions will be welcomed at the November meeting.

## 2010 DUES!

Please pay your 2010 dues now so that we can have some ideas of how many people we have in our group when we make plans. All dues paid in 2009 are good through the end of 2010. Dues paid in 2010 also be good through the end of 2010. Dues are \$20. per year. Applications are available on the club website, [www.evanstonhams.org](http://www.evanstonhams.org) Dues can be paid at a Club meeting or mailed to our treasurer at the address on the website. Make checks payable to "Evanston Amateur Radio Community."

## THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR YOU TO DO

The Evanston Amateur Radio Community members and friends are needed to help with emergency communications. The most important thing you can do to help you with this is to get on the air! VHF. UHF. HF. Packet. PSK32. Echolink. Whatever interests you, use it and practice it so you will have the needed skills in case of emergency.

## WEEKLY SIMPLEX NET

Except for Mondays on which we have a club meeting, the KC9OAS simplex net meets on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. local time on 147.435 MHz. or use echolink node 44686. You can use the echolink node either directly from your VHF radio or with no radio by downloading the free echolink program from [www.echolink.org](http://www.echolink.org) and registering the program with your callsign. You will need a microphone to talk from your computer, or you can type things into the program's text box.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATION NETS



Practice your net communications with the public service organization nets: The monthly Cook County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) net is at 9:00 p.m. on the SARA repeater, at 146.880, -600 kHz., PL 107.2 Hz. on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

The weekly SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) Chicago VHF net is at 8:00 p.m. on the CFMC repeater, at 146.760, -600 kHz, PL 107.2 Hz. each Tuesday evening. For a list of SATERN HF nets, see [www.saturn.org](http://www.saturn.org) and click on the key near "SATERN Nets."

The Disaster Communi-cator's Forum meets every Sunday following the American Red Cross Net that starts at 8:00 p.m. on EchoLink \*DCF-ARC\* Conference Node #336037 and IRLP Reflector 9257.

All interested amateurs are welcome to check in.

## PACKET RADIO

One of the three things that will be useful in an emergency or public service situation, in addition to normal ham radio communications, is Packet Radio. We will discuss the others in future newsletters.

Mark, WA9IVH, gave us a good introduction to the use of Packet Radio at our October meeting. The question arose after the meeting: What do I need to do this myself?

The first thing you will need is a ham radio. This can be VHF, UHF, or HF, depending on who you wish to talk to. Check out listings of Packet bulletin boards for general communications or ask friends. The EARC will probably be using VHF primarily at this time, since that is what the radio at the EOC uses.

The radio will have to be connected to a Terminal Node Controller (TNC) and that to a computer. If your radio has a data port, that can be connected directly to the TNC using a data cable. Buxcomm.com has cables to match a number of radios with common TNCs. Check out AES catalog or store or other ham resources for available TNCs. Eham.com and Ebay have TNCs on sale, as do ham flea markets and individual hams (see the swap meet forum on qrz.com).

If your radio does not have a data port, you will need to connect the TNC to the microphone port, using the same connector as your microphone on one end of the cable and whatever your TNC has for the appropriate data port as the other connector on the cable. Some people build a switch to change over between microphone and TNC; others change cables manually; and still others use an older radio for their TNC, since most TNC operation is on

simplex and doesn't even need the PL tone generator to operate.

Connecting the TNC to your computer is usually done through a serial port connector, although newer computers seldom have a serial port. In such cases, a USB to serial port connector is needed, with the serial end going to the TNC and the USB end going to your computer.

A computer program is also needed for Packet operation. The program demonstrated at the October meeting was a free program called Outpost, available at <http://www.outpostpm.org/> This is a user-friendly program that makes communicating via Packet radio as easy as the now-familiar email communication.

For more details about Packet operation, see the guide at the website above in the section called "about interactive Packet."

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## 2009 SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

The 2009 Skywarn Recognition Day is a fun operating event which will run this year from Friday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m. through Saturday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m. The object of the event is to contact as many National Weather Service stations and others as possible. You can use emergency power if you want to test your emcomm system, but this is not required. Operations are on VHF, UHF, echolink and HF. Certificates are given to people who request them. Our National Weather Service facility in Romeoville tries to contact as many hams in this area as possible. Complete details are at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio>

Other special events, listed on the ARRL website, are not as elaborate, but give you good operating practice.