



KC9OAS NEWS

JANUARY, 2010

INFORMATION FOR THE EVANSTON AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY

THE EARC IS AN ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

www.evanstonhams.org

WITH OR WITHOUT A RADIO: GET ON THE AIR

EM COMM

In order for hams to be useful in an emergency situation, each one must be able to communicate. Radio experience with general conversation ("ragchewing") and, especially with nets and net protocol is important to be able to effectively operate when chaos may be more prevalent than order. "Mic fright" can be conquered through experience. All members of the Evanston Amateur Radio Community are encouraged to get experience.

The Echolink club meeting programs offered in January, 2009, and this month will help people to be able to practice talking with a microphone. Please take advantage of these, especially if you don't have your own radio.

Later in the year we will have more opportunities for mentored radio operations such as the Illinois QSO Party last year as well as at least one more Simulated Emergency Test.

The weekly club net, using the call sign KC9OAS, is on both 147.435 simplex and Echolink node 44686, which can be accessed from your radio or a computer. Come to this month's club meeting for more information. If you can't make the meeting, be sure to check the online materials at the club website.

JANUARY MEETING:

ECHOLINK

AT KC9PHX SHACK

The January 25 meeting of the Evanston Amateur Radio Community will be at 7:30 p.m. at 2309 Brown Avenue, #2. The program is about setting up and using Echolink.

The group will view and discuss a "How to Set Up Echolink" a presentation currently available as a PDF through the website http://www.evanstonhams.org/downloads/cat_view/12-meeting-presentation-materials Following a walk through document, some of the more important steps will be demonstrated on a live computer Echolink system.

The second half of the program will demonstrate accessing an Echolink node via radio. Bring your HT if available and if you already have Echolink set up on a laptop bring that, too. Remember you do not have to have a radio to start using Echolink software. Get started as an Echolink user and learn more about links, repeaters and using your radio at next week's meeting.

A link to the guide to Echolink is also on the club website at the link above.

COMPUTER RADIO

Do you have a computer with internet access? Even a dialup access will do. Then you can put the free Echolink program on your computer and participate in the weekly KC9OAS net as well as a number of other special interest nets until you are able to get a radio of your own, or, even if you have a radio, from anywhere with internet access even if you don't have your radio with you or if the antenna on your radio is not adequate to punch through a steel-framed building.

For a list of some of the special interest nets on Echolink, check out the yahoo group called VOIP_Radio.

And, while you're on yahoo, don't forget to join the Evanston Hams group for meeting and net reminders and opportunity for email discussions.

NET CONTROL STATIONS FOR JANUARY

Stations who have volunteered as Net Control for the Monday night EARC net (see next page) are:

January 4 KC9OPV

January 11 KC9PHX

January 18 N9EWJ

If you want to volunteer, contact W9LUO@arrrl.net

2010 DUES!

Please pay your 2010 dues now, using the application that is available on the club website, www.evanstonhams.org

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. 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."

PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATION NETS

Enhance your skills in 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, 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 and click on the key near "SATERN Nets."

The Disaster Communicator'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. All interested amateurs are welcome to check in.

APRS

The third of the three things that will be useful in an emergency or public service situation, in addition to normal ham radio communications, is the Automatic Position Reporting System or APRS. This system, developed by ham Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, uses amateur radio to transmit position reports, weather reports, and messages between users.

Using APRS requires a two meter radio that will operate on 144.390 simplex (so an old radio will work just fine-no PL tones or offsets are needed), an antenna, an interface and a GPS. Kit with the last two items can be purchased for less than \$100 and can also be purchased assembled. Some new radios have the echolink and GPS built in for APRS.

The major advantage of APRS in emergency communications (or in public service applications) is that a central net control station can know where all the hams in the field are at all times. Static location can be seen at websites such as <http://www.aprs.fi> or <http://www.findu.com> Using a computer program such as UI-View, one can view the real-time location of all APRS-equipped radios and watch them move to different locations on the UI-View map of the area, which can be enlarged or reduced as appropriate.

Knowing everyone's location without having to contact each person in the field is a real time-saver when sending people to various places in need of their communications help. It can also be useful if a person becomes lost and needs navigational help in a new location or one disoriented by some disaster.

You can read more about APRS online at <http://aprs.org> or <http://aprs.net> or in books about the subject available from ARRL and others. Checking out the static sites online and entering a callsign (such as W8UFO or W9LUO) can show you the location of those hams (if their systems are turned on) at any time.

PROGRAM IDEAS WANTED

What do you want to learn more about at our meetings? Your board will be meeting early in February to plan meeting topics for the year. Please contact any board member to present your suggestions for that meeting.

2010 Officers
of the Evanston Amateur
Radio Community

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