

KC9OAS News

ARRL Special Service Club
<http://www.evanstonhams.org/>

Evanston Amateur Radio Community
@EvanstonHams

September 2011
Evanston, Illinois USA

Next Meeting

September 26, 2011
7:30 PM

Program:

Explore LED Lighting

Evanston Fire Department
Training Room
909 Lake Street
Evanston, IL 60201

Project: Explore LED Lighting

Conserving power vitally important when operating in an emergency situation. Besides running radios on battery power you may need to run lights. LED lighting uses much less energy than fluorescent or incandescent. During the September 26, 2011 meeting attendees will explore simple LED lighting circuits while building their own single-bulb LED light that will provide enough light to write down information while conserving power. To ensure that we have enough parts available please RSVP to meethams@evanstonhams.org.

Communicators Needed for Evanston's Bike The Ridge

On October 2, 2011 bicyclists of all ages and abilities will have the opportunity to ride on Ridge Avenue between Howard Avenue and Church Street...free of traffic! Licensed Amateur or GMRS operators are needed to provide radio communications for this event from 7:00 AM through 2:00 PM (end time may change as plans solidify). In order to volunteer you must be licensed and have a fully functional Amateur or GMRS radio capable of repeater operation with enough battery power for the duration of the event. This is a great opportunity to test your short term deployment go kit, your emergency communications gear, and your radio net operating skills. To volunteer or for details please contact Scott Irwin (W8UFO / WPYB279) at 847-492-3456 or send an e-mail to scott@w8ufo.net. You can read about the Bike the Ridge event [here](#).



Bike the Ridge
Evanston

Officers

President
Scott Irwin (W8UFO)
Technical Director
Marilyn Gardner (W9LUO)
Secretary/Treasurer
Chuck Bartling (W4TVW)

Weekly Nets

Metro Amateur Radio Club
Sundays at 9:00 PM
147.315 MHz (PL 107.2)
S.A.T.E.R.N
Tuesdays at 8:00 PM
146.76 (PL 107.2)
North Shore Radio Club
Thursdays at 8:00 PM
442.725 MHz (PL 114.8)
ARES
4th Thursdays at 9:00 PM
146.880 MHz (PL 107.2)

ARRL Contests

September 17-18, 2011
10 GHz and Up Contest
September 24-25, 2011
International EME Competition
October 22-23, 2011
EME Contest, 50-1296 MHz
October 17-21, 2011
School Club Roundup
<http://www.arrl.org/>

A Bit of History: Where did "SOS" Come From?

*From "The Radio Amateurs Operating Manual" (1969)
By -Louise Ramsey Moreau WB6BBO/W3WRE*

The amateur distress call, QRRR, grew from the purpose of the first organized amateur emergency nets. They were set up in cities along the Pennsylvania Railroad to aid the "Pennsy" (and later other railroads) with train communications in the event of failure of the railroad telegraph landlines - which were frequent. The signal QRR came to be used to indicate that the calling station had railroad traffic related to some emergency. ARRL eventually adopted this call for use by any amateur who had distress traffic and later the call was changed to QRRR because of a conflict in definitions with the international Q signal QRR.

One of the first distress calls was CQD, coined by the Marconi Company about 1904 from the "general call" CQ and the letter D for "distress." The main problem with CQD was that it was supposed to be used only by ships which subscribed to the Marconi radio system and ships of one system were discouraged from communicating with ships or shore stations of other, competing, companies. The problem got so bad that it was taken up in the international radio conference in 1906 where a new universal distress call was proposed.

The American delegation suggested the letters NC which were already recognized in the International Signal Code for Visual Signaling. The German delegation proposed its own SOE which was already in use on German ships as a general inquiry signal similar to CQ (which was then used only by the Marconi system). The British delegation, of course, wanted to stick to the Marconi signal CQD.

The convention found SOE acceptable except that the final E could easily be lost in QRN so the letter S was substituted, making it SOS. The convention decided that SOS should be sent as a single code character with a sound unlike any other character, thus arresting the attention of anyone hearing it. So SOS was officially adopted, but CQD remained in use for some years, particularly aboard British ships.

It wasn't until 1912, after the Titanic disaster, that SOS became universal and the use of CQD gradually disappeared. Titanic radio operator Jack Phillips sent both CQD and SOS to be sure that there couldn't possibly be any misunderstanding.

It is the special purpose of this group to support the City of Evanston Office of Emergency Preparedness.