

# WOMG FEEDBACK

Since 1929

October 2000

## NEIRAA OFFICERS 2000

President: Jerry Jones (KIØIH)  
Vice President: Curt Wilson (NKØT)  
Secretary: Jay Nabholz (KCØAKJ)  
Treasurer: Dave Berry (KBØOCI)  
Directors: Chuck Angel (WAØINC) >2002  
Dennis Orona (NØRWY) > 2001  
Chris Conklin (NØCF) > 2003

The Northeast Iowa Radio Amateur Association on a monthly basis publishes the Feedback. The NEIRAA meets the second Saturday of each month (except August) in the lower level of the American Red Cross, 2530 University Ave. Waterloo. Meetings start at 7 P.M.; anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to attend.

Feedback editor this month: Earl Taggart (K8YWT) E-mail [k8ywt@gcuni.net](mailto:k8ywt@gcuni.net)

## Area Repeaters:

\* Indicates 136.5 Tone Coded Squelch

### Waterloo/ Cedar Falls

WØMG: 14694 \*, 444.975 \*  
WAØINC: 146.82\*, 443.75\*,  
444.925\* (Linked SEITS)  
NØCF: 444.65\*  
KMØK: 146.655\*  
NKØT: 224.90 (-1.6)

### Independence

NIØL: 145.33\*

### Oelwein

KFØHA: 147.345, 443.950

### Waverly

NØRJJ: 145.43\*

## CLUB WEB PAGE

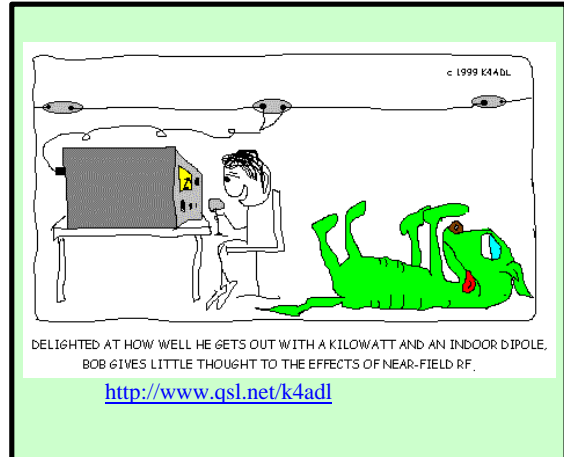
<http://wØmg.cfiowa.net>

## NEIRAA TREASURERS REPORT

09-09-00

General Fund:----- \$772.82  
Repeater Fund:----- \$155.78  
Savings:----- \$25.00  
VE Testing:----- \$127.00  
Cash:----- \$20.00

## Program for October Meeting



## MONDAY BREAKFAST MEETING

Monday mornings at 9AM Waterloo Airport. Enjoy Ham Chatter and a great breakfast.

## Digital Cell Phones and their coverage

This article is a brief discussion of my recent conversion from analog to digital cell phone service and what I have found works best in my application.

I have been using Analog Cell phone service for several years and have been with US Cellular because of the rural coverage they offer. Wanting to upgrade to digital and to take advantage of the advanced feature has been knowing away at me for the last 6 months so, I went ahead and started the trip to digital land.

The first big setback comes from the lack of rural coverage in Grundy and Tama counties, but it is improving. PS if anyone wants a cell cite I may have some space on my acreage. Again US Cellular seems to be about the only reliable choice so I picked up the latest

Nokia 6120 phone and accessories. The first thing I noticed is a big increase in dead spots and poor coverage. About this time I made a contact with a Ham back east who is an engineer with US Cellular and he shed some insight into the problem I was experiencing. The New Phones have fixed or non-telescoping antennas, while convenient and less prone to damage, they offer a 7 to 9 db loss in performance over the telescopic antenna. The digital phone also operates at almost half the power of the analog phone. I guess that explains part of the better battery life. His recommendation was the Motorola Star Tac Flip Phone. It has the best operating characteristics for the antenna in the market today. It has a telescopic antennae, and it points away from the head, avoiding the shielding effect and possibly the absorption effect. I tried the new Star Tac Phone and the performance is hands down far superior to the Nokia. Battery life is limited but there are optional batteries to help out with that. Places I could not get a signal with the Nokia are full quiting with the Motorola. So, in my experience, take a good look at the Star Tac if you plan to be operating in less than ideal Digital Cell Phone areas.

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## **RF safety rules now in force for all amateurs**

Starting September 1, every US amateur is required to fully comply with the FCC's RF exposure guidelines. The regulations, which went into effect January 1, 1998, require US Amateur Radio operators to read and understand the rules and, where necessary, perform technical evaluations to determine that their stations are compliant with the new regulations. Up until now, only Hams who have had to file an Amateur Radio application with the FCC have had to certify compliance with the RF exposure rules. As of September 1, all amateurs must comply.

Under the regulations, an amateur station must not exceed the maximum permissible exposure limits for transmitter operation.

"These regulations are not a major burden on the Amateur Radio Service," said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI. "Most hams are already in compliance with the MPE requirements; some hams will need to conduct a simple station evaluation."

A complete description of the rules is available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/>. The site also contains resources to make your station evaluation quite painless.

Address questions about RF safety and the FCC exposure guidelines to ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, [ehare@arrl.org](mailto:ehare@arrl.org).

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## **PHASE 3D SET FOR HALLOWEEN LAUNCH**

The next-generation Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite is set for launch on Halloween! The launch agency Arianespace said that in addition to Phase 3D, an Ariane 5 rocket would attempt to orbit the PAS 1R communications satellite and two other payloads, STRV 1C and STRV 1D, on Tuesday, October 31. The launch will take place at the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

AMSAT-Germany Executive Vice President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, who's heading up the launch campaign, was a bit more tentative about the launch date. He called October 31 "the start of the launch window" and said it was the earliest date on which the launch could take place.

AMSAT officials were encouraged by the successful September 14 Ariane 5 launch that placed two communication satellites in orbit. A launch using an older generation Ariane-4 rocket is scheduled for October 7. Guelzow reports launch preparations for the October 31 Ariane 507 Phase 3D flight officially got under way September 18 in Kourou and are proceeding "on target." Guelzow is pinch hitting for Phase 3D Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, who was unable to make the trip. AMSAT News Service says the RUDAK computer team, the RF team and members of the electronics team from AMSAT-NA already have completed their work and returned home. Electronics team members from Europe this week were wrapping up their tasks and preparing to leave. Five of the six bays around the satellite's circumference have been secured for the final time; the sixth bay has been prepared to load fuel. Thermal blanket additions have also been completed. Final tests have been made on several detectors--such as the sun sensor--and the solar cells were being mounted on the satellite and will be connected to the battery chargers.

Once everything is ready, the rocket and the satellite payload packages it will carry will be integrated in the Spaceport's Final Assembly Building.

Guelzow reminded operators planning to use Phase 3D after launch that it could be a few months after launch before Phase 3D is ready for routine operation. The actual time depends on several factors including orbital parameters and the work needed to nudge P3D into its final elliptical orbit. Guelzow said that satellite operators worldwide "can rest assured that every effort will be made to initiate operations at the first possible opportunity consistent with flight operations."

The launch team has established a Web site that includes photographs of the team preparing the satellite. It's at

<http://www.amsat-dl.org/launch/> . For more information about Phase 3D, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, <http://www.amsat.org/>.

## VE SESSIONS

- AMES - December 2, 9:30 AM, Fire Service Institute Extension Building, Iowa State University. (I-35 to Exit 113 (13th Street); West 4.5 miles to Haber Road, South 1.5 blocks (2nd building on west side of the road). For information, contact Ken Anderson, NØAS, (515)-291-0481. Talk in on Ames Repeater.
- DES MOINES - November 19. 1:00 PM. Saylor Township Fire Station, 211 NW 54th Ave (1/2 mile north of I-80/I-35 on 2nd Avenue). For information, contact LeRoy Koder, WDØCZO, (515) 262-2390
- WINTerset - October 20 7:30 PM, Madison County Extension Office, east side of the courthouse square. For information, contact John Sawhill, WAØO, (515) 462-1342.

## UPCOMING HAMFESTS, FLEA MARKETS & CONFERENCES

Iowa:

- DES MOINES - Hamfest Iowa. October 29th. 8 AM to 2 PM. Iowa State Fairgrounds 4H Building. Contact: Jim Wieder, KGØUF, (515) 276-0500 or <mailto:wiederj@netscape.net>
- Tikva Tracers ARC & Iowa Assn of ARC'S 29 Oct. Des Moines IA. Contact: Steve Walton Wb)IUN 9847 Arv-Ellen Dr. Des Moines, IA 50325 515-276-0500
- Davenport – Davenport RAC Hamfest Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. Mt Joy Airport IA. National Guard Hanger

MO

- South Side ARC – Grandview MO. Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. <http://www.qsl.net.southsidearc/>
- St. Louis ARC & Gateway to Ham Radio Club 28 Oct. St. Louis Mo.

IL

- Chicago FM Club – Radio Expo Sep 23 – 24. Grayslake IL. Lake County Fairgrounds

## CENTRAL IOWA AMATEUR RADIO NETS

- Sunday - 7:45 AM to 8:30 AM, 3900 Club Slow Speed CW Net, 3.560
- Sunday, 9:00 AM, 3900 Club Net (Voice), 3.896
- Sunday - 5:30 PM - Iowa Traffic & Emergency Net (ITEN), 3.970
- Sunday - 6:00 PM - Central Iowa Radio Amateur Society Net (Marshalltown), 147.135+ (CTCSS 141.3)-
- Sunday - 7:00 PM - Story County ARES Net (Ames), 147.240+
- Sunday – 7:00 P.M. – Central Iowa Ragchewers Net (Mingo), 146.67-
- Sunday - 8:00 PM - Central Iowa ARES Net (Des Moines), 146.940- (Simulcast on many other repeaters)
- Sunday, 8:30 PM (or following ARES Net) - Central Iowa Packet Net (Des Moines) - 146.940- (simulcast on many other repeaters)
- Sunday – 9:00 PM – North East Iowa ARES Net (Waterloo), 146.94
- Sunday - 9:00 PM - Boone County ARES Net (Boone), 146.850-; 443.900+ UHF net follows
- Monday - Saturday, 12:30 PM & 5:30 PM, Iowa Section Net (Voice), 3.970
- Monday - Saturday, 6:30 PM & 10:00 PM, Iowa Section Net (Tallcorn Net) (CW), 3.560
- Monday, 7:00 PM, Southwest Iowa CW Net, 3.691
- Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Iowa QRP Club Net, 7.113
- Wednesday, 8:00 PM, Eastern Iowa/Western Illinois 10 Meter net, 28.313
- Wednesday, 9:00 PM, Cyclone Amateur Radio Club (Iowa State University) net (Ames), 147.375+/443.375+
- Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of each month) 9:00 PM, Slow Scan TV Net, 147.075+
- Thursday, 7:00 PM, Polk County ARES Net (Des Moines), 146.940-

## National Nets:

- 7.255 ECARS
- 7.251 & 14.325 SOUTHCARS
- 7.258 MIDCARS
- 14.300 MARITIME MOBILE NET (12N – 9PM)
- 7.2815 GOOD SAM RV NET
- 14.336 COUNTY HUNTERS NET

## FOR SALE

Please submit any Amateur Radio related equipment for sale to [k8ywt@gcmuni.net](mailto:k8ywt@gcmuni.net) or send me a list at "Earl

Taggart, 1041 L Ave. (T69 or Dinsdale Blacktop),  
Reinbeck, IA. 50669"

The following items are from K8YWT, Earl Taggart 319-  
345-2033

- Dentron Clipperton L HF amplifier 1000W output. 872B Tubes (4) are a little soft and the output is approx. 800 watts. \$350.00.
- JRC JST-100 Transceiver 160-10meters all solid-state 100 watts. \$350.00
- Murch UT-2000B Antenna Tuner 2000 watts, 160-10 meters, balanced and unbalanced outputs. \$125.00.
- Butternut Butterfly 20-10 meter 2 ele. Quad Beam. Rated for 400 watts. Great for hams with limited space to put up an antenna. Can be turned with a TV Rotor. \$150.00.
- Alinco 2 meter Linear Amplifier, 3w in 30w out. SSB or FM. \$50.00
- I.C.E. Model 421 Low Pass Filter. DC – 30 Mhz. 50 ohm, 80db attenuation above 32Mhz. \$50.00.
- Radio Shack DSP40 CW & SSB noise reduction digital signal processor. \$35.00

The following is from Don W0DT at 277-6031

- Kenwood TS-850AT \$825.00
- Hammarlund HQ 170 rough condition but works \$45.00.



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NEIRAA

PO Box 92

Waterloo, IA. 50704