



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB  
SINCE 1961



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# BRANCH SIGNALS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BRANCH COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Club Repeaters: 147.300 + 100 Hz 443.300 + 123 Hz

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## World Radio Magazine Acquired by CQ

### Publication to continue online

CQ Communications, Inc. has acquired WorldRadio magazine, CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA and WorldRadio Publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, announced jointly on November 12. CQ, based in Hicksville, New York, currently publishes CQ Amateur Radio, CQ VHF and Popular Communications magazines.



WorldRadio, based in Sacramento, California, has been published monthly since July, 1971, with a primary focus on the human side of ham radio. CQ, a general-interest ham radio magazine best known for its support of DXing and contesting, has been in print since January, 1945.

Armond Noble, N6WR, Publisher of WorldRadio, said that at

the age of 74 the time had come for him to retire. "I wanted to be sure that WorldRadio found a good home, and that our readers would continue to be served by an independent voice in amateur radio," Noble said.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said, "WorldRadio has filled an important niche in our hobby for nearly four decades. We welcome WorldRadio's readers to the CQ family, and we look forward to meeting their needs for many years to come."

Current plans call for WorldRadio to continue to be published online as part of the CQ family of magazines, with Editor

Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position. WorldRadio subscribers will also have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

Source W5YI

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## Let's Get on the Maker Bandwagon

*By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU*

About a week ago, I got an e-mail from a ham down in Texas who had attended the Maker Faire ([makerfaire.com](http://makerfaire.com)). "Makers" are people who love to tinker and make things. They even have their own magazine, Make ([www.makezine.com](http://www.makezine.com)).

He was amazed at the lack of any amateur radio content. He wrote, "The Maker Faire was unbelievable. Incredible stuff. Pedal powered carnival rides, robots, computer drive routers, kits. Outside of a table with a Vectronics kit, and a license manual, and a QRP book, the only radio stuff was from a pirate radio group."

I'm kind of amazed at this as well. It just goes to show how disconnected amateur radio is getting from the mainstream. These are exactly the kind of people we want to get interested in amateur radio, yet there was no one there representing us.

Ham radio needs to be at these events and get plugged into the "maker community." The Faire has not yet released attendance figures for this particular Faire, but more than 65,000 people attended the Faire held in May 2008. Dayton, with its attendance of about 20,000, looks anemic by comparison.

I blogged about this back in May (<http://kb6nu.com/why-cant-dayton-be-more-like-the-maker-faire/>). One of the things I suggested then is moving Dayton to some place like Austin. Seriously, if you were a new, young ham, where would you rather go, Dayton, OH or Austin, TX? Let's be real here.

And can there be a worse place for an event than Hara Arena? The parking lot, where they hold the flea market looks like a mine field, and it usually rains, making the flea market a wet, unpleasant experience. Is it any wonder that fewer and fewer vendors choose to haul stuff out there? Some of us older hams might fondly reminisce about the bargain we found while traipsing around wearing a trash-bag poncho, but a story like that is not going to resonate with new hams.

Please don't get me wrong. I don't mean to badmouth the Dayton Amateur Radio Association or the Hamvention. I actually think that they do a great job, all things considered. I'm just pointing out that if ham radio wants to again be part of the mainstream, we have to get with the program. Unfortunately, that program probably won't be at the Hara Arena.

Ham radio has got to figure out how to latch onto the Maker phenomenon. At the very least, the ARRL should have a booth at the next one, and in addition to all the books and t-shirts, they need to come up with some kind of demo or display to attract makers into ham radio. I don't know what exactly, but I'm willing to start talking about it.

This phenomenon might also be a boon for clubs who hold hamfests. Just as the computer craze turned ham swaps into ham and computer swaps in the 80s, perhaps ham clubs could turn their hamfests into a combination hamfest and Maker Faire in their communities. As I said earlier, Makers are exactly the kind of people we want in ham radio. Let's go out and get them.

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>

### DXPEDITION



Manihiki Atoll OC-014

Ex-T209DX, ZK2QQ, YJ0AKA, V73V, T88QQ, T26DX, T30QQ, FK/JA1KAJ & KH0/JA1KAJ will be QRV as **E51000** from Manihiki Atoll between 18 Nov - 3 Dec



Rich, PAORRS will be QRV as 9M2MRS from Penang, IOTA AS-015, from **November 17 to February 6, 2009**. QSL to home call.

**NEXT MEETING - Tuesday November 18th—7:00 P.M.**  
TBD

Thanks and a Tip of the Hat



This month I would like to thank Andrew for upgrading the club website and taking over the responsibilities of webmaster.

Good Job!

**BRANCH COUNTY A.R.C.**  
Meeting Every Third Tuesday  
Branch County Communications Center  
At The Branch County Airport  
7:00 P.M.



**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
[WWW.BRANCHCOUNTYARC.COM](http://WWW.BRANCHCOUNTYARC.COM)

**JOIN US ON THE WEEKLY TWO METER NET  
TUESDAY - 7:00 P.M. - 147.300 - ALL WELCOME!**



**NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**FOR SALE ITEMS**

**VE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ok ladies and gentlemen. As you know November is time for our annual elections. We would appreciate your participation at this month's meeting in order to be able to conduct the elections.

Thanks!

Your President: Dan Sprow

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**FYI:**

After the first of the year for 2009 the ARRL has raised the exam test fee to \$15.00



# Coordinator's Corner



## *EC Comments November, 2008*

### Monthly Review

October has been a quiet month, and frankly, after all the activity that has been going on since March, I was ready for a quiet month. I hope you all have enjoyed the calm as much as I have.

Recently, Tim, KD8JEK announced that the OEM has received 110 weather radios which are destined to be distributed to various places around the county where they are needed to protect out citizens. Our group will be involved with the distribution and programming of these very important early warning instruments.

### Opportunity

For the past couple of years, I have been thinking about a project for our group to work on and I am happy to report that it appears that we will be able to proceed.

What is this project, you ask?

On the first Saturday of each month, the warning sirens in the City of Coldwater and the balance of the county are tested, weather permitting. Obviously, if significant weather is in the area on the day of the scheduled test, then the test is postponed to avoid any confusion on the part of the public.

Currently the Fire and Law Enforcement departments are tasked with verifying the siren operation in Coldwater and the county. They take time away from their other duties to perform this task and sometimes they have more important things to attend to.

This is where we come in. We are putting together a program where members of our group will make themselves available to observe the proper siren operation and report their observations to a net control station. Each test day (one Saturday a month) will require a handful of operators (final number TBD) to go to their assigned post at the appropriate time to observe the siren operation and note that the speakers rotate properly and the duration of the siren test is correct.

If the Coldwater portion of this project works well, we will look at expanding it to cover the County. I am looking for volunteers to make this a reality. The time commitment is relatively small and we will do our best to make sure that we minimize any distance that you may be asked to drive. The more folks we have that volunteer, the better for all involved. Our goal is to not need any particular operators every month, but spread the load out over a larger group.

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Coordinator's Corner Continued



(continued from page 5)

I invite all hams that would like to help us out to contact me and let me know they are interested in being part of this project.

### Skywarn Website and Club Website

If you have not been to our Skywarn Website or our Club's Website lately, you are in for a treat. Andrew has spent many hours completely revising both websites and has created two great locations for information about what is currently happening in our county. Many thanks go to Andrew for his efforts. Nice job!

### Coming Months

We have a few more weeks where we need to watch for convective events and then our thoughts will turn to winter weather. If you haven't already thought about joining the NWS CoCoRaHS program, you can find information on the IWX website or you can ask Brad, K8BPD or Dave, KQ8R for information.

We have requested our training date for Severe Weather Training and have asked for March 17, 2009. The plan is that the training will take the place of our monthly club meeting. Put a mark on your calendar to make sure that you keep that date clear for our annual training event. As soon as we have confirmation from IWX, we will publish the official information.

### Gratitude

Your ARES/RACES leadership recognizes that our program would not be anything near what it is today without the help of all of our members. Your dedication to your communities and your willingness to occasionally put yourself in harm's way to benefit the citizens of our county is very much appreciated. I am proud to be associated with you. I wish you and your families the very best for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Larry Camp, WB8R

Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Emergency Coordinator/RACES Officer

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