



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Treasurer's Report	1
Secretary's Note	2
SARA Logo Project	2
From the Trustee	3
EMCOMM Quiz	3
Upcoming Events	4
Special Thanks	4
Amateur Testing	5
Enough Antennas?	5
Sun Spot Cycle	6
Pre-Release Information	6
Additional Information	7
SARA Information	8

## President's Message



Dear SARA Members,

It is hoped that you are enjoying the Fall season! Following are a couple of important reminders and comments about SARA activities:

- **Annual SARA Business Meeting will be held on 9:00 am Saturday October 3, 20-09 at Perkins Restaurant, Rt. 17/I-95. All members are encouraged to attend and have a voice in the future of SARA if you can make it.**
- The period for Nomination/Election of the 2009-2010 SARA Board is upon us. Please participate by voting after reviewing the emails received from the Secretary.

I wish to thank all that have assisted in supporting SARA during the past year. Whether through volunteering time to install & maintain equipment, keeping sites clean, serving on the Board, conducting work at the EOC, serving as a volunteer examiner, making donations of equipment to SARA, maintaining SARA membership, and/or supporting the 50/50 drawings . . . all of these have helped keep SARA's repeaters "on the air," helped to improve the Association's amateur capabilities, and helped enhance interest in the hobby.

Please continue do encourage area hams regularly using our repeaters to support SARA by joining.

I have considered it an honor to serve this past year and hope that progress has been made to improve SARA's amateur radio capabilities in the future.

Respectfully & 73,

Harry (KI4JVE)

## Treasurer's Report



(August 2009 amounts available at time of publishing newsletter).

**Beginning Balance:** \$4559.63

**Expenditures:** \$0.00

**Received: Total \$424.00**

(\$288.00 membership dues)

(\$124.50 from 50/50)

(\$11.50 from donations)

**Ending Balance:** \$4983.63

**Expenditures Authorized-Not Executed:** \$1300.00

**Net Balance:** \$3683.63

Prepared by: Andy Miles (KJ4CCU), SARA Treasurer

# Secretary's Note: Election Time!

The period for nomination and election of the 2009-2010 SARA Board is upon us.

Your vote Counts! Please participate by voting for members eligible to serve as representatives on the SARA Board per instructions sent via email.

As of this publication and following the July membership renewal period, SARA currently has 56 members!

Sincerely,  
Siegfried Gates (N4SIG - formerly KG4UCM)  
SARA Secretary



## SARA Logo Project

Results of the SARA Logo Project were finalized following tabulation of email votes as received by Sig (N4SIG), SARA-Secretary by deadline of September 11, 2009.

Total votes received for proposed logos was 16. The winning logo that will serve to identify SARA was Logo #4 (as submitted by Emmett-K3EP) displayed below which has been implemented.

Thanks to all who invested the time to offer input and cast their vote!



## From the Trustee

- The controller for the Garrisonville repeater site was sent to the factory for repair. Repair is temporarily “on hold” until the factory completes building 25 new controllers (one of which is ordered for SARA’s eventual use at the Glendie site). Repair to the controller will thereafter resume by the limited staff at the factory. Once repaired, returned, and re-installed, the decode function will resume on the 145.270 MHz repeater and routine functions should return to normal.

Emmett Price, K3EP,  
Trustee

## Emergency Communications Quiz



Questions from the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (Level I). Correct answers listed in **bold** print.

LU 3-4 What is the pitfall that is common to telephone, cellular phone and trunked radio systems?

- A. They do not take advantage of the benefits of Amateur Radio.
- B. They are all difficult to use.
- C. They are seldom available at shelters and public safety agencies.
- D. They all require the use of a complex central switching system that is subject to failure in a disaster situation. (PG 19, COL 1, PP 2& Various)**

LU 9-1 As part of an emcomm group handling message traffic in a emergency, you are asked to forward a message that contains typographical errors. Which of the following is your best course of action?

- A. Delay sending the message.
- B. Forward the message exactly as received. (PG 55, COL 1, PP 3)**
- C. Return the message to the originating station.
- D. On your own, correct the error in the message and forward it.

LU 13-5 In comparing the 30 amp Anderson power pole connector with the 10 amp Molex connector, Which of the following is true?

- A. The Molex is better for high power applications.
- B. The Molex is better for heavy duty cycles.
- C. The Anderson is capable of being plugged and unplugged a greater number of times without deterioration. (PG 82, COL 1, PP Top)**

LU 13-1 In considering power sources for HF radios, which of the following is true?

- A. DC to AC inverters can be used to power HF radios.
- B. Standard automobile batteries last longer than deep cycle batteries.
- C. AC powered HF radios are suitable for all emcomm use.
- D. Whenever possible, use deep cycle batteries to power HF radios. (PG 82, COL 1, PP2)**

*(Submitted courtesy of Bart, N3GQ, ARES® Emergency Coordinator & RACES Radio Officer, Stafford County)*

# Upcoming Events

**Dates to  
Remember**

- **Saturday October 3, 2009 9:00 am Annual SARA Business Meeting, Perkins Restaurant, I-95 exit 133 at Rt. 17, Stafford, VA. All members are encouraged to attend.**
- October 4, 2009, CARA-Fest sponsored by The Columbia Amateur Radio Association at Howard County Fairgrounds, 15 miles West of Baltimore, MD. Talk-in 147.135 MHz. Additional information at [www.carafest.org](http://www.carafest.org).
- New SARA Board begins November 1, 2009.

***Please note: Several members have inquired about a SKYWARN class mentioned in the April & July newsletters. As of this newsletter publication, a date/time has not yet been determined. Date & time of a SKYWARN class will be communicated when received.***



## Special Thanks to Andy (KJ4CCU)



During the Summer months, Andy (KJ4CCU) donated a new Icom ID-1 to SARA for placement at the Emergency Operations Center located at the Stafford Public Safety Building. This is a very generous contribution that will augment SARA's capabilities in times of activation/operation in the future.

Andy, from all . . . Thank you for your contribution to SARA, serving as Treasurer on the Board, and much hard work at the EOC!

Please personally thank Andy when you have an opportunity.

# Amateur Radio Testing

The monthly exam session held at the Stafford Public Safety Center on 09/13/09 was among the most successful in the 10-year history of the Rappahannock Valley Volunteer Examiners' Group. Seven of the ten candidates passed their exams, most for the General Class license. Several of them traveled some distance to get to the test site, including from Reston and Thornburg. As the number of testing locations continues to dwindle, our Stafford testing becomes increasingly important for regional and prospective hams. Two of the examinees are new local hams who indicated they will apply online to join the SARA club. Some of them told us they will return next month to upgrade their license class. Exams are offered monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday from 1300-1500 hours at the Stafford Public Safety Center near the County Courthouse. Please visit <http://www.qsl.net/semcomm/products.htm> and its 3 other links for more detailed information.

Prepared by:  
Curt Bartholomew, N3GQ,  
VE Session Manager

## Testing Location & Schedule

Consider becoming a Volunteer Examiner!  
Visit: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/become-a-ve.html>

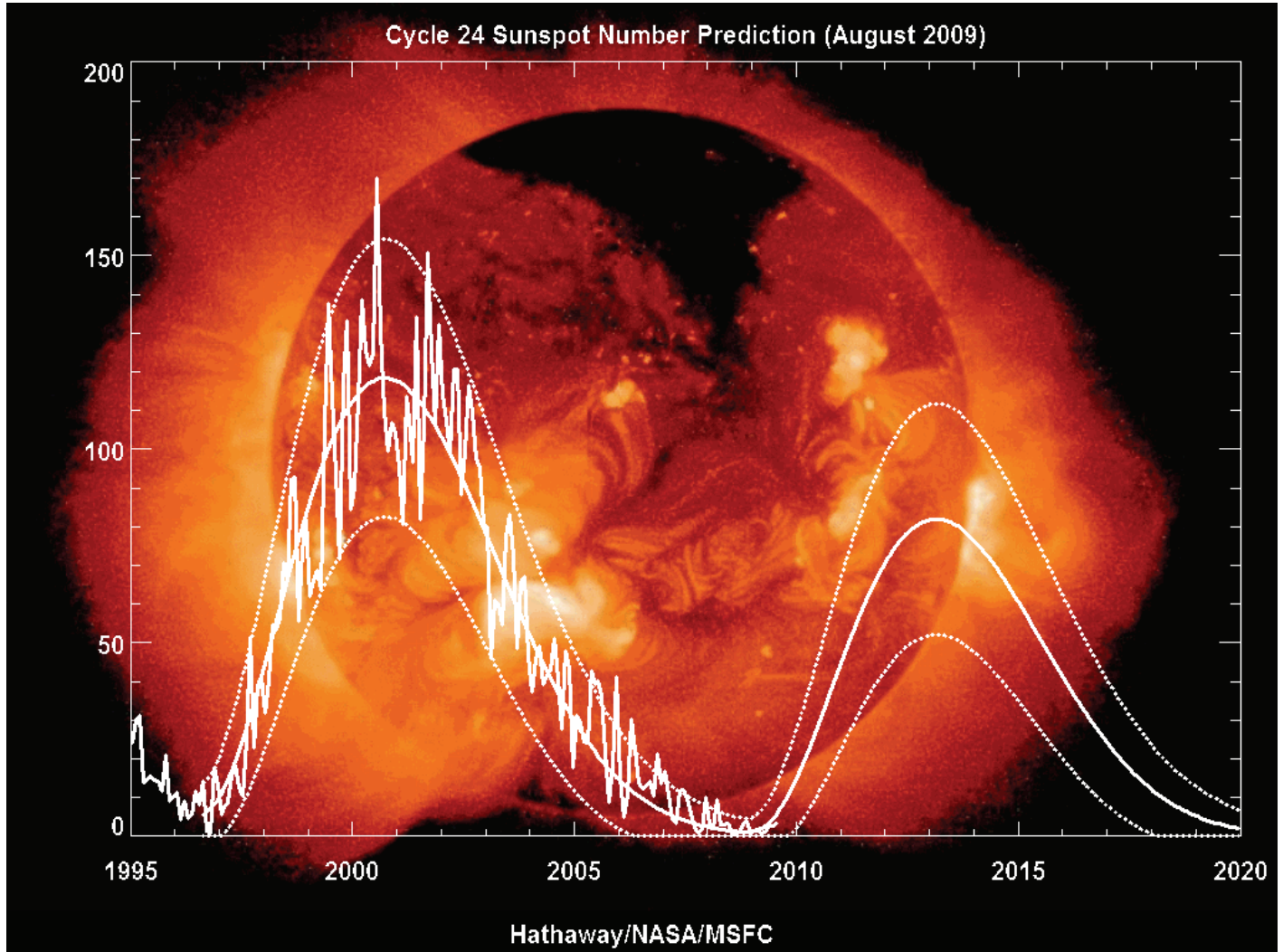


## Can Never Have Enough Antennas!



Photo courtesy of Harry (KI4JVE) taken at Berryville Hamfest 08/02/09

# Impressive Graphic of Anticipated Sun Spot Activity



(courtesy of Butch - KF4HR)

## In the Near Future . . .



Icom has published a **Pre-Release Product Information brochure for the IC-9100**, described as an all-around transceiver capable of V/UHS Satellite + HF/50 MHz Bands + D-STAR DV Modes for all three D-STAR Bands (2 Meter, 70cm, and 1.2 GHz).

For more information, see the brochure at <http://www.rigpix.com/icom/ic9100.htm>.

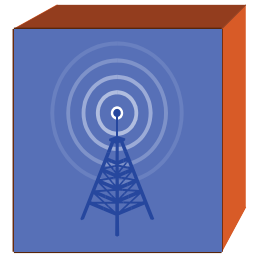
(Information courtesy of Butch—KF4HR)

# Reporting Repeater Interference

Should you hear any repeater interference or misuse of SARA's repeaters, please report it so that the Trustee can work toward its resolution

- Reporting repeater misuse/abuse is simple by logging onto the SARA website, navigate to the "Repeater" web page, open and complete the "Report Repeater Misuse" form and click Submit. Should you be unable to reach a Board member,

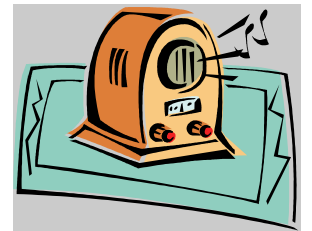
the same form may be used for reporting problems with the repeater function. We must all help police the repeater activities when observed and not assume that someone else has already reported the same activity,



**Getting the word out!**

## Have An Interesting Article, Ham Experience or Event to Share?

- If you have an interesting article, ham experience, or event that you would like to share of benefit of SARA members about the amateur radio hobby, please send your draft to: saraboardmembers.org. It is requested that articles be submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc) and any accompanying photographs in electronic (.jpg) format when possible.
- We will do our best to publish an informative newsletter on a quarterly basis to keep you current, interested in SARA, and the great hobby of amateur radio.



## Let Us Know

Please keep board members informed of any problems with SARA repeaters and equipment. We are making a concerted effort in staying on top of issues as well as keeping members informed of progress. The only way we may be informed about a problem is if you tell us (if not heard on the air).

Please contact any board member should you hear us on the air or email us at:

[saraboardmembers@ww4va.org](mailto:saraboardmembers@ww4va.org).

Board Members are:

Harry Kern (KI4JVE) - President

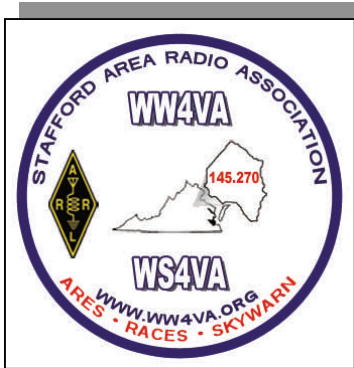
Sig Gates (N4SIG, formerly KG4UCM) - Secretary

Andy Miles (KJ4CCU) - Treasurer

Curt Bartholomew (N3GQ) Member-at-Large

Emmett Price (K3EP) Trustee/Member-at-Large

*Have an Issue?*



**Stafford Area Radio Association**

P.O. Box 6331  
 Falmouth, VA 22403  
 Web Site: <http://www.ww4va.org>  
 Email: [saraboardmembers@ww4va.org](mailto:saraboardmembers@ww4va.org)

Membership in the Stafford Area Radio Association (SARA) is open to all individuals interested in Amateur radio. We serve Stafford County, VA (population 124,000), the city of Fredericksburg, and surrounding counties. Our beautiful, historic county is located approximately 30 air miles South of Washington, D.C. We meet each Saturday for breakfast at approximately 7:00 a.m. at Perkins Restaurant, Rt. 17, Stafford, VA (exit 133 off I-95). Everyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited and welcome to attend. In Stafford County, the services of the ARES and RACES are combined into one Emergency Communications (EmComm) Team. Our association consists of approximately 60 members. We own and operate several repeaters in Stafford, VA with back-up power and have wide coverage including the counties of Stafford, Prince William, Spotsylvania, King George, and the City of Fredericksburg.

# SARA Repeaters

**WW4VA (Analog)**

145.270 MHz (-) PL 79.7  
 147.375 MHz (+) (temporarily offline)  
 444.450 MHz (+) PL 79.7  
 145.550 MHz (Packet)  
 Echolink Node 52256

**WS4VA (D-Star)**

145.320 MHz (-) WS4VA C  
 447.275 MHz (-) WS4VA B  
 1282.20 MHz (-) WS4VA A  
 1298.40 MHz (Data) WS4VA A  
 D-Star Gateway WS4VA G



For more information, go to  
<http://www.dstarusers.org>

