

VCARA

# CONNECTION

Vermilion County Amateur Radio Association



March 2011

## A Blast from the Past.....



## .....A Look to the Future!!



**Join us at**  
Fire Station # 3  
1111 N. Griffin  
NE Corner Griffin and English  
(park in back, entrance off English)  
Danville, IL  
March 14, 2011  
7PM



## 2010/2011 Officers

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**Connection Editor**  
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### **VCARA CONNECTION**

The Vermilion County Amateur Radio Association (VCARA), a group of Amateur Radio operators, interested and active in the service of the Amateur Radio service, publish a monthly newsletter, where members and officers can post information of interest to other members.

Our policy is to print and/or post only information that is related to Amateur Radio, and not items of a political or religious nature, unless it has an impact on Amateur Radio, such as antenna ordinances, etc.

If a member wishes to have printed a topic that is not Amateur Radio related, they can submit a copy to the club newsletter editor, any club officer, and the matter will be discussed and decided upon by the Board of Directors.

**No PERSONAL attacks** will be allowed.

**Submissions are due on the last Friday of each month!!**

# Tuck's Thoughts



Hopefully winter is leaving us....I am thinking that the majority of us are a bit tired of the cold winters, and are ready to spring ahead.

As most of you may already know Josh Kittle N9WEW is our new call sign trustee. Thanks Josh for taking on this responsibility.

Our March meeting will be held at Fire station #3, located at Griffin and English, in the 2nd floor training room. Hopefully we will be able to meet back at the club house in April, of course that will depend on the condition of the grounds.

Remember the various nets that occur on the club repeater each week. Sunday nites, we have the Vermilion County ARES net at 7pm. On Wednesday evenings at 7:30 we have the VCARA net, and on Fridays, we have the Late Night net at 9pm.

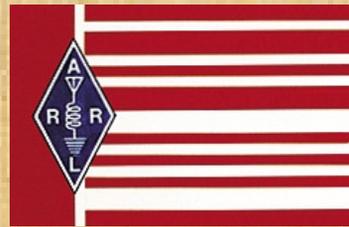
As stated in last month's column, we do have a committee that is going over the constitution and bylaws for possible changes. They will be presented to the club. I would encourage you to be at the next few meetings, as if there are any changes, we would want everyone to be there, to voice not only your opinion on any proposed changes, but to actually vote yay or nay.

Also, hard at work is the Hamfest committee. We have been going over dates, vendors, etc., and everything is looking good, no, they are looking great.

**On Sunday, February 13, we had a VE session, with Tom, NU9R, Josh, N9WEW as the team leader and myself as the VE's, and we had the pleasure of administering some exams. We had 3 persons in attendance, 2 upgraded to General, and one got their 1st Ticket. Congrats to all 3, and to the new one, Welcome to the service.**

***Ham Radio.....not just a hobby.....***

***.....But a real service!!***



## Your help is needed!!

The newsletter received a few contributions this month, and we thank you!! The more articles we receive, the better for the newsletter and for you, the reader!!

I would love to see people who can write an article each month..maybe on constructing small indoor antennas for 2 meters, making your own antennas for not only VHF frequencies, but HF frequencies as well. Maybe step by step directions on installing connectors. Believe it or not, there are probably some newbies who might not know.

**Send me articles in Word or text only, or make the pdf files a jpg file.**

I can not convert pdf files back to text. Sorry.

Help out your newsletter!!! Deadline is the last Friday of every month!! 73.

**Helping Others.....**

**.....Always Worthwhile.**



## Radioactive!!

### Nets to you.....

Sunday ARES net 7pm 146.820 pl 88.5  
Monday ICARC 8:00 147.030 dup+ pl tone 103.5  
Wed. Night Net 7:30 146.820 pl 88.5  
Fridays: 73's Late Night Net 9:00 pm 146.820 pl 88.5

## VCARA QSO Party

Every Saturday Morning!!

9:00 am - 11:00 am

VCARA Club House - Woodbury Hill

Or at another designated venue.

A weekly get together for fellowship and to work on various club projects. Continued planning for upgrades to the club house facility. All are welcome, your help is appreciated.

# Sunspot Cycle 24 is Here.....

Provided by Jim Georgias W9JUG

Sunspot cycle 24 is here and getting more active as we move toward its peak in October 2012. The first sunspots began to appear in August of 2010 and have continued to show periodic increases. The Sun goes through a magnetic pole reversal every eleven years that causes the sun to erupt sending charged particles from its atmosphere called the corona into space. This effect is called the solar wind that affects our upper atmosphere.

For more information see [Spaceweather.com](http://Spaceweather.com) to keep up with what's going on with sunspots that affects radio propagation.

Auroras (The Northern lights) are caused by high-energy charged particles from the sun, such as electrons, entering the magnetosphere of the earth. This is most likely to happen during a geo-magnetic storm, resulting from the bombardment of the earth by solar particles following a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME). A CME often causes a major geo-magnetic disturbance or "storm" which creates an opening for energetic particles streaming from the sun to enter the earth's magnetosphere. In the wake of the CME impacting the earth, in addition to the geo-magnetic storm, the speed and density of the solar wind, the flow of particles outward from the sun, is particularly high, enhancing the effect further. Once within the magnetosphere, the solar particles interact with the earth's magnetic field, spiraling around the field lines and following them towards the poles. Since the geo-magnetic field lines converge toward the poles, the energetic particles also converge towards the poles and are also drawn downward into the ionosphere. In the ionosphere, they strike molecules and atoms of air at around 100 kilometers from the earth's surface (eg, Nitrogen and Oxygen) causing them to radiate light. This light creates the beautiful colors of the aurora!

## FCC Adds New Country to CEPT Reciprocal Agreement for Amateurs

(taken from the ARRL Letter)

On Monday, February 7, the FCC released a *Public Notice (DA 11-221)*, adding a new country to the CEPT reciprocal operating arrangements for US citizens who hold an FCC-issued General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio licenses. US hams may now operate in Montenegro, as well as the other countries covered by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), subject to the regulations in force in the country visited, to operate in those countries.

US amateurs with a General class license will be granted CEPT Novice Radio Amateur License privileges, in accordance with *ECC Recommendation (05)06 (as amended)*. US amateurs holding an Advanced or Amateur Extra class license will be granted CEPT Radio Amateur License privileges in accordance with *CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended)*. US hams who will be traveling to CEPT countries can now go to these links and see if any new countries have been added to the reciprocal agreements.

While operating an amateur station in a CEPT country, the US amateur must have a copy of the *Public Notice*, proof of US citizenship and evidence of their FCC license in their possession. They must show these documents to proper authorities upon request.

CEPT countries participating in *ECC Recommendation (05)06* as of February 7, 2011 are: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Switzerland.

CEPT countries participating in *CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01* as of February 7, 2011 are: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Estonia, Finland, France (including Corsica, Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, St Bartholomew, St Pierre and Miquelon, St Martin, Reunion and its Dependencies, Mayotte, French Antarctica, French Polynesia and Clipperton, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).