

Letter from President Terry Nixon-WB0VQP September 11, 2014

By now many of you have probably heard that the decision was made at the September Davenport Radio Amateur Club meeting to shut-down the 9 PM net on the 146.700 MHz repeater.

This action was taken following discussions on the matter at the July, August and September meetings.

It was felt that the net was redundant to the ARES-RACES net conducted at 8 PM on Sunday night on the 146.880 MHz repeater.

The termination of the net was done primarily to re-focus and re-group amateur radio operations to one repeater. (146.880 MHz) This repeater will be the primary frequency used in the event of any emergency, or weather net due to its wider range and better coverage. The 146.880MHz repeater is also the designated ARES and RACES repeater.

In addition, there were concerns over the weather forecasts, and "Swap-Net" activities on the net on 146.700 MHz. It was felt that the process of roll-calling of stations was unnecessary, as was the reading of weekly weather forecasts given all the various media choices available. It was further decided that the weather forecasts could be considered as broadcasting, which is of course not permitted by FCC regulations on amateur frequencies. Another concern heard was that in order to participate in both Sunday night nets, a 2 hour block of time is required.

I would like to thank Leo Williams and all of his predecessors for faithfully conducting this net for many years. In its "hey-day" this net saw check-ins of multitudes of amateur stations from all over the area, and many from other areas. In those days the large number of stations checking-in dictated the necessity of the roll call procedure. Times have changed. Many of those amateur operators have either passed-on, or are no longer active for various reasons, hence the changes that have been made.

It was our thought that we needed to consolidate our efforts into one cohesive group instead of numerous ones. I personally apologize for any problems this may have created, however I feel this was a necessary action in order to preserve and bolster the level of amateur activity.

There exists the opportunity to hold a short "hamfest announcement" and "Swap-Net" on the 146.880 MHz repeater at the conclusion of the 8 PM net. The rules will be that items must be "amateur radio-or related," and that items may only be listed for 3 weeks. The offer has been made to Leo Williams to hold these activities. If he decides not to do so, we will consider others to do so.

We would welcome and very much like the participants of the net on 146.700 MHz to join us on the 146.880 MHz at 8 PM on Sunday night. Remember the repeater requires a 77 Hz. CTCSS (PL) tone for access.

I would like to remind all area amateurs that the Davenport Radio Amateur Club INC owns and maintains the repeaters on 146.880, 146.700, 146.640 and 146.940 MHz. for your use. In the past year the 146.880 repeater has been replaced with a new unit, new duplexer, and antenna at club expense. I would like to invite all area amateurs to support our operations by joining the club. Dues are only \$10.00 per year.

(That is only \$0.83 per month) Those dues and Ham-fest profits serve to sustain the group and maintain the repeaters. Monthly meetings are generally held on the first Monday of each month (excluding holidays) at the Bettendorf Library.

There is no reason why the 146.700 MHz repeater cannot be used for informal "QSO-Party-type" activity on Sunday evenings, or any other time. The club pays to maintain these repeaters for amateur use! Please feel free to use them!

Thank you and '73