

# Abbreviated Ham Rag

## January 2005

**Help !!!!** The officers are still looking for an editor for the Ham Rag. John A. (SOG) cannot continue this year. Thus, this is all Tim & I could put together this month. Please step forward. The pay is great and the benefits are the best in the industry. You will also be on the board and able to be a part of the decision making team.

**From us** - - - Here we are about to embark on another year. We had an active year in 2004 and we hope to continue in the same direction.

My (**Bill**) hope is to have fun with amateur radio and have the new hams keep up the challenge to us old timers. Let's keep upgrading and if you have the time, be an Elmer to someone. Try fox hunts, studying together in small groups and try a building project.

My (**Tim**) goal is to spread the word about Ham Radio to the community, and to show our value. Amateur Radio has a facet for everybody, and unless we tell them, how will they ever know about this wonderful opportunity. There is CW, Voice, Digital, SSTV, Satellite, ATV, APRS, and many other modes of communication.

If you have an interest in a topic and feel comfortable with talking about it let me know.

73 for now Bill WB9MCZ and Tim KC9DNN.

---

**Scott Kanodle**, WB9LHU writes - - I can look up reference material for you. I have reference material that you probably have forgotten about. I.e. calculate the existence or nonexistence of the ever elusive decibel, and anything else you may have questions about. I'm also good for a ragchew on 146.610 or call me at 965-9841. I look forward to hearing from you.

---

**Carl Cacciatore**, W9TQ tells me - - Remember that the cost of mailing the Ham Rag has been added to the dues base. This has been necessitated by the cost of printing and postage. So to avoid the added cost, retrieve your Ham Rag from the internet.

---

**Sue**, KA9GNR says - - It's time to start readying your portable gear for the upcoming spring and summer events. Look forward to the spring weather alerts. Put a supply kit together with dried and canned food plus water containers. This is necessary for everyone that travels or has regular power outages during the winter months also. Just a reminder that, the **final day for reservations for the Awards Banquet, is Mon. Jan. 10, 2005**. The menu has been posted in the prior Ham Rag. Please call me at **654-9590** and forward your check and choices today to 8312 Tetterhall Lane, Machesney Park, IL. 61115-7929.

---

**Larry**, KOHNM shares - - Ever wonder why that transmitter site has survived dozens of strikes until a

single strike turns it into a molten mass?

The National Geographics Channel has been running a show called "Megalightning". On again next Wednesday.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lightning#Positive\\_lightning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lightning#Positive_lightning)

An average bolt of negative lightning carries a current of 30 kiloamperes, transfers a charge of 5 coulombs, has a potential difference of about 100 megavolts, dissipates 500 megajoules (enough to light a 100 watt lightbulb for 58 days), and lasts a few milliseconds.

(based on a small number of measurements): An average bolt of positive lightning carries a current of 300 kiloamperes, transfers a charge of up to

300 coulombs, has a potential difference up to 1 gigavolt (a thousand million volts), dissipates enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for up to 95 years, and lasts for tens or hundreds of milliseconds.

Larry  
KOHNM