



Ham Hum

May 14, 2021 Volume LXX, Issue 05

May AARC Club Program

This month's down to earth presentation is on grounding (pun intended). This very important topic will be presented by Daniel A Buchholz N0POT. Dan has professional expertise in this area and I know it will be very interesting. Over the last forty years, I have been shocked by my equipment and know of other hams who have had that same grounding experience (again pun intended). This topic covers lots of area and based on your feedback, we may asked him to present "Grounding II" later in the year. Presentation will start sometime after 7:15 p.m. at the May club on May 14. – Pat WO0JU.

Update on the Saturday Breakfast Club for Ham Radio

About a year ago with the COVID restrictions, a group of hams decided to start a Breakfast Club for Ham Radio. Lake Manawa was picked as it was in the middle between local Iowa and Nebraska clubs. Everyone with an interest in amateur radio is invited and we get together on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturday of the month weather permitting. Go to Lake Manawa's North West entrance, and it is the first picnic shelter after you enter the park. Time is between 9:00AM and 11:00AM. This informal event is not a club specific gathering. Bring your own coffee, donuts, and even a radio if you are so inclined. Maybe you want to talk about the radio, ask questions or just "play" radio. There is between 13 to 20 participants on the last three Saturdays and it was reported that there were some very interesting and helpful "radio" conversations. Keith McKinney KE0AEP is the informal host and everybody is welcome. See you there.
Pat WOJU.

AKSARBEN ARC Club Meeting – Apr 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM Zoom. There were 31 attendees.

Officers and Board members present included: Howard, AE0Z; Dan, N0POT; Dave, N0JSB; Brian, KE0GKB.

Secretary's Report - Brian, KE0GKB - The minutes were posted in the Ham Hum. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report - Dave, N0JSB - - As of March 31 the club accounts had balances of: Main Checking \$5,262.63, Repeater Checking \$382.60 Savings \$6,995.13, CD Life Member one \$6,527.57, CD Life Member two \$6,780.15, and CD Repeater \$1,113.50 This leaves the balance of all the club accounts at \$27,061.58.

In the month of March there were deposits of \$60.00 From Membership dues.

In the month of March there were expenses of \$185.49 consisting of \$146.00 for annual Post Office Fees, and 39.49 for Ham Hum supplies.

President's Report - Pat, W00JU - no report

Vice President's Report -Howard, AE0Z - Next month's presentation will be Station Grounding by Dan N0POT.

Education Committee - Rea N0REA- no report

Membership Committee - Mary N0TRK presented ten new members to the club.

WB0TNS, John Lemen: KF0EAY, Randall Wing; W5EJM, E. J. Murphy; KE0VYG, John Scott; KF0EQQ, Richard Barber; KF0EJC, Christopher LeGrow; KF0EII, Marlin Smith; WB5UDE, Jim Glover; KD5VAY, Michelle Glover; W0EAZ Ethan Seagren.

A motion was made by Mary, N0TRK with a second by Brian WE0BEP to accept these applications. The motions was approved by a unanimous vote.

ARES - no report

Satern - Mary N0TRK SATERN is standing down from activation for the forest fires in the Rapid City, SD area.

Every Monday evening at 7PM is the Stay Connected Net on the .94 repeater. You do not have to be a member of the Salvation Army SATERN group to check in. This is a net for people to keep in touch with each other during the pandemic.

Community Service. Pat - K0CTU The Corporate Cup run will be on April 18 and the Nebraska State Track Meet will be on May 21 and 22. Please contact me at K0CTU@cox.net if you would like to Volunteer or need any more information.

Repeater - John WB0CMC - The repeater is working fine.

Courtesy committee - Bill KD0FJR no report

Web Services - we are working on a revamp of the website. If you would like to assist contact Mary at N0TRK@cox.net

Field Day - the club needs a Chair for the field day committee if you are interest in the position, please contact board@aksarbenarc.org.

Please check the ARRL website for the latest rules for this years field day.

Flea Esta - the club needs a Chair for the Flea Esta committee if you are interest in the position, please contact board@aksarbenarc.org.

Publications - Brian WE0BEP We will need stamps for the next club mailing.

Old Business: The 6-Meter EME project is still ongoing, we are waiting on the seller of the antenna to get out of the hospital so we can arrange shipping.

New Business: John ABOZT has been looking at Jackets, Shirts and patches that could be available for our members. It was suggested that we change the color of our logo to Red White and Blue in celebration of our 75th year. Cost and pricing will vary once we know the quantity of each item we would like to purchase. A poll will be sent out to each member to gather more information about the design and possible quantities the members would be interested in purchasing. There will be more information following the results of the polls. For the latest news and announcements please check the website or Facebook.

There being no more business, a motion to Adjourn was made by John ABOZT with a second by Pat KOCTU, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

April's club presentation was on "Solar Power and Batteries in Ham Radio" by Keith McKinney KE0AEP. I heard that it was very informative and it is incredible how this technology continues to evolve, become more available, and is more economical for ham radio use. Thank you Keith for sharing your expertise! Think about an encore topic for later in the year?

Speaking of the sun, solar cycle 25 is here! While the "experts" have different opinions on when the new sun spot cycle started, what will be the maximum, and when; the facts are you can see a lot more activity on the HF bands. In almost all contests since last December, there is a lot more stations on 10 and 15 meters. In the mornings, I have worked almost all of Europe on 15 meters. Granted the openings can be short, it is exciting to hear our European hams again. Openings to South America and South Africa are very common in the morning and sometimes into the late afternoon. On 20 meters the band is opening up before sunrise and staying open until after sunset. I talked to a ham, in the east area of the Nebraska Sandhills this weekend. He reported that most of the time he does not hear stations. He calls CQ on SSB and often someone comes back. He has a 100 watts to a 20 foot high dipole and has worked numerous US and DX stations. He is a new ham and his excitement is contagious. His speculation is that there are many stations that are listening and not talking. So I sound like a broken record, if you don't hear signals, send out a CQ and you may be surprised as to what happens next. Send me your experiences and I will see what I can incorporate into future articles.

One other weird occurrence was that I had by Hexbeam pointed towards South America one afternoon and had numerous contacts with Honduras, but could not hear anyone else. Go figure.

I hate getting old, there is so much to do and less time to do it. I am still working and on most day loving it. On other days I want to retire, and spend my time fixing things, fishing, traveling, and spend lots of time on my several hobbies including ham radio. Last fall, I decided it was time to change antennas. I had this huge backyard tree that was dying and a safety risk. In order for the tree service company to remove the tree I had to take down my Force 12 40 meter though 10 meter beam. (Do you know of someone needs a big beam without traps?) Instead of putting this outstanding antenna back up, I looked for a more neighborhood appealing alternatives, as the antenna is more visible with the tree gone After doing some research (which is half the fun) I put up a 20-6 meter Hexbeam. At 20 feet I was surprised at how well it performed and then even better at 40 plus feet. And I was finally on 6 meters for the first time, and was having even more fun.

One day I was thinking back to Saturdays with my Uncle Joe WOLHK in the mid 1960s. He had a Hygain HF Quad. I remembered how impressed I was, and I remember thinking to myself, when I become an adult, I am going to have my own quad. Over the years, I dreamed of owning a quad. Some of you might remember Frank Brunner KOSST, who lived neared 104th and Maple Street and his four element quad on a 30 foot boom up 60 feet. Now that was a quad! So back to getting old, I decided this spring, to order a Cubex 20-6 meter quad (2 elements on 20 through 10 and 4 elements on six meters). I will keep you apprised and hope to be calling on some of you to help me put it together. More to come. Also I will be looking for a new home for a slightly used Hexbeam.

Regarding our EME plans, the Offutt hams are interested in participating in our adventure. We have located a 9 element 6 meter beam that has never been used. The beam owner was never able to put it up and now has health issues. He wants about 50 cents on the dollar for the beam. He has been hospitalized and hope to give me a shipping estimate before our next club meeting. Dave Rice N0JSB is looking at building us an AZ elevator boom mount. If anybody can build it, it is Dave!! Thank you Dave for stepping up!

We are looking for KW plus amplifier for two meters as well as a long boom 2 meter Yagi. If you have any leads, please contact me. I am posting a link to the AARC website, from the Cherry Land Radio club where Lance W7GJ did a live demonstration of a successful 6 meter EME contact. During the course of their meeting Lance worked several European and US stations from his home in Montana via EME. Just a reminder, Lance spoke at the AARC a couple of months back. The link to the Cherry Land presentation is <https://youtu.be/vOrCXifwAsM>.

Our new ham radio fashion czar, John Fifer ABØZT, provide an update at our last meeting on the latest AARC fashion items. We are also looking for your ideas on how we should celebrate our 75th anniversary. By now you have receive by email a Ham Club online “ballot”. The purpose is to determine your interest in getting a club patch and what AARC clothing and hat gear that you may be interested in purchasing. We are interested in volume purchasing to get you the best prices. If you did not get a “ballot or survey”, you should either sign up on HamClub online or check your email address on HamClub online. I want to shout out and thank John Fifer and Brian Sohl for their hard work on this project.

Lastly, I missed the April club meeting as I was down deep in the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas where Wi-Fi connections are very spotty at best. We have so much better and reliable service here locally. I will plan better the next time I am out of town to be in a better area. See you on Zoom for the club meeting. Pat Connell W00JU.

Club Officers & Board Members

President	Pat Connell	WØOJU	president@aksarbenarc.org
Vice President	Howard Parks	AEØZ	vicepresident@aksarbenarc.org
2018-21 Secretary	Brian Sohl	KEØGKB	secretary@aksarbenarc.org
2018-21 Treasurer	Dave Rice	NØJSB	treasurer@aksarbenarc.org
2021-2022 Director	Dave Rice	NØJSB	board@aksarbenarc.org
2021-2022 Director	Dan Buchholz	NØPOT	board@aksarbenarc.org
2020-2021 Director	Brian Sohl	KEØGKB	board@aksarbenarc.org
2020-2021 Director	Ray Blackburn	NØREA	board@aksarbenarc.org
Immediate Past President	Sean Edwards	ADØQG	board@aksarbenarc.org

Club Committees

Courtesy Committee	Bill Snyder	KDØFJR	courtesy@aksarbenarc.org
Education	Ray Blackburn	NØREA	education@aksarbenarc.org
Field Day	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	fieldday@aksarbenarc.org
Flea-Esta	Chris Rice		flea@aksarbenarc.org
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	membership@aksarbenarc.org
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	wa0zqg@hotmail.com
P.I.M.P.	Jim Westcott	KAØKCV	pr@aksarbenarc.org
Prizes	Open	Open	prizes@aksarbenarc.org
A.R.E.S.	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	n0up@arrl.net
Publications	Brian Pitchanau	WEØBEP	hamhum@aksarbenarc.org
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL	qslmanager@aksarbenarc.org
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph	KØCTU	community_service@aksarbenarc.org

Technical Assistance	Ed Edwards	KØIL	technical@aksarbenarc.org
Web Services	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	web_master@aksarbenarc.org

Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Vice Chairman	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Club Call sign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	trustee@aksarbenarc.org
Member	Russ Hilton	ADØQH	repeater@aksarbenarc.org

Other Contacts

ARRL Midwest Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS	k0das@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Dir.	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	k0aiz@arrl.org
EC Douglas County	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	dcares@aksarbenarc.org
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN	
Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	testing@aksarbenarc.org
NE Section Manager	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	ka0boj@arrl.org
VE Exams/ARRL Liaison	Ray Blackburn	NØREA	testing@aksarbenarc.org

AARC Ham Hum Post Office Box 24551, Omaha, NE 68124-0551

Area Nets

Monday

7:00 PM 145.290 South-West Iowa ARES Glenwood, IA.

8:00 PM 144.250 NE Missouri SWOT.

9:00 PM 146.940 AARC Chat Net. Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Omaha, NE.

Tuesday

9:00 PM 145.310 Washington Co. ARES Washington Co, NE.

Wednesday

7:00 PM 146.670 Dodge Co. ARES Dodge Co, NE.

7:30 PM 7.122 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

8:00 PM 3.564 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

8:00 PM 145.310 Saunders Co. ARES Saunders Co, NE.

8:30 PM 7.122 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

9:00 PM 3.580.5 PSK Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

9:00 PM 146.820 Pottawattamie County ARES Council Bluffs, IA.

Thursday

8:30 AM 7.122 CW Four State QRP 40M Morning Net.

7:30 PM 145.310- Lincoln/Omaha SATERN Net. Ashland, NE.

8:00 PM 28.350 SSB 10-Meter Net.

8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.

8:00 PM 147.360 Heartland DX Association.

Friday

10:00 PM 224.760- Tone 146.2 Promote the Band Net

Saturday

12:00 PM 146.82 Swap Net Council Bluffs, IA.

8:30 PM 3.921.000 QCWA Chapter 20.

Sunday

8:00 AM 3.902.500 Swap Net.

8:30 AM 3.897.500 3900 Club.

8:30 PM Locally IRLP and the Nebraska IRLP net is heard on:

145.410 - 97.4 PL ABOVX Honey Creek

444.800 + 97.4 PL ABOVX Honey Creek

444.925 + 136.5 PL KOBVC Mondamin

146.745 - 136.5 PL KOBVC Portsmouth

223.580 (Simplex) 100 PL KOOQL North Omaha

2:00 PM 50.200 6 Meter Net

9:00 PM 146.940- Douglas Co. ARES net, KØUSA repeater.