



AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Ham Hum

June 9, 2023 Volume LXX, Issue 6

## Field Day is Almost Here!

**Field Day is ham radio's open house.** Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event on ham radio.

The Ak-Sar-Ben Radio club has been participating in this event since the late 1940s. We welcome anyone who has an interest in amateur radio to stop by and we will help you to participate in this great event, or if you just want to learn more about Amateur Radio.

We start station setup on Friday June 23. We start operating on Saturday June 24 at 1 p.m. and go continuously for 24 hours.

This year's site is at the world-famous Village of Boys Town. We recommend that you use the 137<sup>th</sup> and Dodge Street exit. Go a quarter mile south into Boys Town and take the first left for another quarter of a mile. There will be AARC signs to guide you to the stations.

We will be operating two 100W HF transmitters on 80M through 10M using emergency power under the club K0USA call. Additionally, we will also have a "Get on the Air" station available for newcomers and inactive Hams. Finally, we will also be operating on 6M & 2M SSB (50.125, 144.200) FM (50.525, 146.52) and Digital (50.313, 144.174) so give us a call. Talk in on 146.94-.

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## Field Day — Continued:

Thanks to the generosity of Boys Town, we will be doing all of this with the comfort of air conditioning and with a real roof over our heads. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

All are welcome; you do not need to be a member of Askarben ARC to sign up. Don't have experience with HF? Don't worry about it; each station has two slots, one for the operator, and one for a logger. We'll get you warmed up as the logger before we put you behind the mic. All stations are capable of SSB, CW, and Digital modes. We are a bit limited in real-estate, so if you're itching to try out your new go-box or latest portable antenna, please coordinate with us in advance by emailing [phconnell@cox.net](mailto:phconnell@cox.net).

Again, for planning purposes, it would be very helpful, if you want to operate to sign up at: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caca62fa3ffce9-2023#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caca62fa3ffce9-2023#/)

If you have any questions, comments, email me at [phconnell@cox.net](mailto:phconnell@cox.net).

Pat Connell W0OJU and AARC Field Day Committee

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## **2nd Annual AARC Parking Lot Swap Meet August 2023!**

Back by popular demand is our now, annual parking lot swap meet. This will be a great time to come and enjoy browsing from trunk/tailgate to trunk. Our annual swap meet will take the place of our regular membership meeting Friday, August 11, 2023. Begins at 6p.m. until 9p.m., or until everything/everybody is spent/out of cash. Refreshments provied. We are also extending an invitation to the Bellevue club to participate with us. The American Red Cross building lower level located at 2912 South 80th Street in Omaha.

## Secretary's Report for the HamHum 05-12-2023

The May 2023 membership meeting was held in person and via Google Meet on Friday, May 12, 2023. There were twenty-five members in person and one online. The meeting was called to order at 19:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a member roll call.

Secretary's Report - Terry KEØOPB

Nothing to report

Treasurer's Report - Julie NØWAV

The club has combined funds of \$24,523.16.

Vice-President's Report - Adam KDØMMG

1. Adam noted that the presentation tonight would be an online lecture by Dr. Rich Russel ACØUB of the *Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers* on getting into radio astronomy.
2. Future presentation topics: June - How to operate your radio for Field Day; July - Building a tape measure directional antenna for fox hunting; August - Parking lot swap meet (17:30 - 20:00).  
The raffle is available tonight with lots of great prizes.

President's Report - John ABØZT

1. John can get shirts and hats in red, blue, or gray, embroidered with your callsign and the club logo for \$28 (with larger sizes extra). Baseball caps are \$20, patches \$3, and stickers for \$2.  
Our shirt vendor can do coffee mugs, in dark blue with a white logo and callsign, for \$15 with a minimum order of twelve mugs.

## **Committee Reports**

**Education** - Mike WØLE — No report.

**Field Day** - Pat WØOJU

Field Day is Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 at Boys Town (follow the signs once you enter the village). Set up will start on Friday, June 23. Operators will start on Saturday at 13:00 and go for twenty-four hours. There will be two 100W HF transmitters on 80M thru 10M using emergency power under the KØUSA callsign. There will be a GoTA station for newcomers and inactive HAMs. Lastly there will be operators on 6M and 2M SSB (50.125 and 144.200) FM (50.525 and 146.520) and digital (50.313 and 144.174). Talk-in will be on 146.940. You can sign up for set up and operating times at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caca62fa3ffce9-2023#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caca62fa3ffce9-2023#/)

**Special Events** - Pat KØCTU

The following special events will be held:

Nebraska State Track Meet (May 17-20), 08:00 - noon at Burke high school. Volunteers will get shirts and other swag. Bringing an HT with an extra battery and an ear-piece is strongly recommended.

Ralston Independence Day Parade (July 4). Set up and decorating the trailer will be held on July 1 at John ABØZT's residence. We need at least ten volunteers from the club or we won't participate - signups will be at the June meeting and online.

The club summer picnic will be on Sunday, July 16, at Chalco Hills at the big pavilion. The club will provide brisket and a few sides, and a signup will be forthcoming for sides and desserts. There will be a PoTA and a low-power rabbit hunt. Stay tuned for details!

## **Publications - Brian WEØBEP**

Submissions to the HamHum are always welcome!

**Repeater - John WBØCMC** The repeater is working normally with the exception of problems with Newsline, probably related to its transmit time length. John also reported that last Wednesday for about three hours there was someone keying up, probably in a digital mode, without ID'ing. He has a fix on the general area of the transmitter and is continuing to monitor. John also reported that the repeater at 444.950 is back on the air.

Paul WBØGXD reported that the SWIARC 146.820 repeater is at a temporary location at about a 40' height compared to its previous 200', which is why many are having trouble hitting it. It will be permanently located at a 200' height at a tower near St. Albert's High School in the near future.

**Courtesy - Bill KDØFJR** Mary NØTRK noted that she became aware that John Snydermeier NØTJQ and James Sanford NØAIH are silent keys. James was a past president and had been quite active in the club.

## **Membership - Mary NØTRK**

The club has two applications: Ricky Pruitt AEØGG, an Amateur Extra who is a server administrator and Paul Aaron W3BWH, a General who is retired. A motion to accept these two applicants as members was made by Mary NØTRK and was seconded by Julie NØWAV. The motion was unanimously approved.

**ARES - Greg KCØVTO** Greg discussed ARES and how they are running weather nets using the callsign NØEMA. Spotters, both in-field and in-place, are needed so contact him if you want to volunteer.

**Old Business** None

**New Business** None

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## Club Officers & Board Members

President	John E Fifer, Jr	ABØZT	president@aksarbenarc.org
Vice President	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	vicepresident@aksarbenarc.org
Secretary	Terry Begley	KEØOPB	secretary@aksarbenarc.org
Treasurer	Julie Leighton	NØWAV	treasurer@aksarbenarc.org
2023-2024 Director	Julie Leighton	NØWAV	board@aksarbenarc.org
2022-2023 Director	Dan Buchholz	NØPOT	board@aksarbenarc.org
2022-2023 Director	Terry Begley	KEØOPB	board@aksarbenarc.org
2022-2023 Director	Brian Pitchanau	WEØBEP	board@aksarbenarc.org

## Club Committees

Courtesy Committee	Bill Snyder	KDØFJR	courtesy@aksarbenarc.org
Education	Mike Gallagher	WOLE	education@aksarbenarc.org
Field Day	Pat Connell	WØOUJ	
Flea-Esta	Open		
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	membership@aksarbenarc.org
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	wa0zqg@hotmail.com
Public Relations	Jim Westcott	KAØKCV	pr@aksarbenarc.org
Prizes	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	prizes@aksarbenarc.org
Publications (Ham Hum)	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	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	k0das@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Dir.	Dave Propper	K2DP	k0aiz@arrl.org
EC Douglas County	Greg Ervin	KCØVTO	
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN	
Volunteer Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	
NE Section Manager	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	ka0boj@arrl.org
VE Exams/ARRL Liaison	Open		testing@aksarbenarc.org

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

## Area Nets (Updated 14 April, 2023)

### Monday

- 7:00 PM 145.290 South-West Iowa ARES Glenwood, IA.
- 7:00 PM 146.940 Western Division HQ SATERN Net Omaha, NE.
- 8:00 PM 144.250 NE Missouri SWOT.
- 8:00 PM 147.390 Bellevue ARC Protocol Net
- 9:00 PM 146.940 AARC Chat Net. Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Omaha, NE.

### Tuesday

- 8:00 PM 147.390 Bellvue ARC Tech Net
- 9:00 PM 145.310 Washington Co. ARES Washington Co, NE.
- 7:00 PM 147.435 Simplex Net
- 9:00 PM 146.820 Conspiracy Net

### 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 147.390 147.390 KNOBSA Radio Scouting Net.
- 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 147.360 Heartland DX Association.
- 9:00 PM 145.175 NE D-Star Net also on REF002C though internet.

### Saturday

- 12:00 PM 146.82 Swap Net Council Bluffs, IA.
- 7:00 PM 145.290 Hartland Hams TechNet.
- 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
- 8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.
- 9:00 PM 146.940- Douglas Co. ARES net, KØUSA repeater.

## Announcements

1. Mary NØTRK announced that Friday, June 2, is *Donut Day*. This event is sponsored by the Salvation Army in honor of the “Doughnut Dollies” who volunteered in France in 1918 to support American soldiers. There will be a special SATERN event at the EDS headquarters at 106<sup>th</sup> and Burt Circle from 10:00 - 16:00. Also the annual *Museum Ships Weekend* is June 3, and the club will be operating from the USS Hazard (AM-240) at Freedom Park from 10:00 - 15:00.
2. Keith KEØAEP announced that the monthly Saturday get-togethers at Lake Manawa have resumed. Everyone is welcome. Times run from 09:00 until everyone wants to leave. Contact Keith for more information.
3. There will be a military crossband event on Saturday, May 13.
4. The Lincoln Hamfest will be Saturday, May 13, from 08:00 - 15:00.

A question was asked if anyone was going to the Dayton hamfest this year, and it appears that no one is going.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul WBØGXD and was seconded by Mary NØTRK. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

The program this month was an online presentation by Dr. Rich Russel ACØUB of the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers (SARA) <https://radio-astronomy.org/> on getting into radio astronomy. Rich is currently the Editor of the Radio Astronomy Journal and maintains the SARA YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-SzptAQZ-20c9CkRb9ZPpw>. The presentation slides are available at <https://bit.ly/42xTCnM>.

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**Did You Know** that Operating “Barefoot” means your radio is not hooked up to an amplifier, so usually the radio is transmitting with 100 watts or less. An amplifier typically boost the radios signal to 1000 watts (more or less)



## **AARC Members Recognized For Twenty Five Years Volunteering at the NSAA State Track Meet.**

In 1981, Larry Bock, KC0R brought amateur radio to help provide communications to the Field Events at the NSAA Nebraska State Track and Field Championships. 43 years later, the relationship continues. Amateur Radio is primarily responsible for providing the up-to-date information to the announcers to provide information to the crowd about what is happening at various events. From leaders during the event preliminaries, to the finalists, to calling attention to the efforts of two pole vaulters as they vie for the championship.

Over the years, there have been improvements for the communicators. From the “net control” point being outside on the roof of the upper press box, to moving inside an expanded (and non-climate controlled press box) and using a mag mount antenna with feedline sent in through the door, to having a permanent antenna installed and finally being moved directly next to the announcers. This last item has created a great relationship between the two types of communicators, with reports from the field being overheard and relayed by the announcers with no need to write the message and hand it to Rich or Scott in the announcer’s booth.

Hams are also part of the safety for the athletes and spectators. Calls for medical assistance are relayed over amateur radio, and we are part of the evacuation plan should there be a need to move everyone to shelter in the event of severe weather.

There have been many longtime volunteers, some have retired from spending a day at the event, others have become silent keys. Pat KØCTU and Mary NØTRK were recognized for 25 years of volunteering with the meet. (They took off a year here or there to make the trip to Hamvention, but they have been volunteering at the event since 1994)

The meet was cancelled in 2020, but came back with a new format in 2021, stretching the event to 4 days, allowing for a bit more spacing of people. The meet has run as a 4-day event. While this means a slightly shorter day for the hams, as the field events being completed for the day by early afternoon, it does mean volunteers are needed to cover four days. However, there is no need for everyone to volunteer all four days (although many do) working a day or two is possible. There is always a place for another operator.

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There will also be changes as the old press box will soon be torn down and a new more modern building will go up. This will give Burke High better concessions stand, more accessibility, and an expanded press box able to better support the technology that is becoming part of high school sports. Where amateur radio will be housed hasn't been determined yet, but Rich and Scott (the voices of the meet) still look forward to having details of each event delivered to them.

This year the crew with the ring side seats (and parking passes in the "officials" lot) were Scott KA4ZZQ, Ronnie WDØA, Ryan WØNU, Steve NØUP, Brian WEØBEP, Larry ADØLS, and Garrick KFØBLU. Pat KØCTU recruited volunteers and serves as an interface with the Nebraska Schools Activities Association as well as being the liaison at the medical tent, and Mary NØTRK served as the relay to the announcers. Below— Ronnie, WDOA



**MEMORIES OF A PAST BOYS TOWN FIELD DAY** Truthfully Told, ONLY slightly Tongue in Cheek By John Bruckner, WOHII, Life Member AK-SAR-BEN ARC  
June 26th , 1976:

Field Day set up at the Priests Retreat area, just East of 144th Street, North of Pacific. It was hot, muggy, buggy, mosquitoes and No-See-ums were thick. We were watching dark, ominous rotating clouds, (See photo) form West of the corn fields across 144th street... the wind getting stronger and gustier... no rain yet, I take a quick photo of the approaching storm while tightening the guy ropes on the SIX METER SHACK tent. Boys Town sirens blow. Then here it comes...heavy, heavy rain, strong wind, watching others running to their cars, others taking shelter outside around a pile of manure? We jump into the back of my pickup topper when the huge hail began, softball sized in diameter, the noise of the hail and rain is deafening, the windshield cracks, wind rocking the pickup, and watching John Draus, W0EKB (SK) punch the hail dents in the topper roof out with his fist as they appear, over and over again...finally the storm eases, then stops. Blessed silence. We leave the relative safety of the truck, coming back to our tent, now flat, the folding card table collapsed, both folding chairs are now outside the tent.... the Clubs Drake TR-6 sitting in deep water in the bottom of the tent, both power supply and radio drenched. In lifting them, water pours out... Antennas are down on the ground.... Retrieving the floating paper log sheets from the water, soaked but luckily written in pencil so still readable... all power poles (wooden ones, not the plastic DC connectors of today) and electric wires are down across 144th Street, totally blocking it...me driving back home to get MY Drake TR-6 so we could continue ... CQ FIELD DAY W0EQU!

2023 K0USA: Inside? An actual building? With a roof? Air Conditioning? Large Space? Computers? No bugs (insects)? No smelly tents? NO TORNADO HITTING FIELD DAY (Hopefully)? Where's the FUN in that?? LOL! PS: Good luck, have fun, I'll look for K0USA from here in Texas. 73, John WOHII/ 5

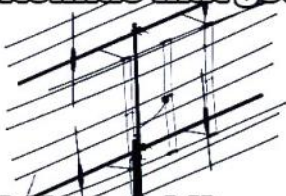
**(See Photo on page 12)**

June 26, 1976 Field Day photo of sky as the Storm approached.



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**Did you hear about the two  
antennas that got married?**



**Well, the wedding was terrible...  
but the reception was great!**