



AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Ham Hum

Sept 8, 2023 Volume LXX, Issue 9

August 11<sup>th</sup> was a bit on the steamy side, but proved to be yet another popular day to hold a parking lot swap meet at the Red Cross building. There was a great turn-out of eager hams wanting to find that “great deal”, and there were quite a few bargains to be had. I enjoyed seeing everyone socializing, as well as trying to figure out just how to best carry all of their treasures back to their cars. We had our usual cookies and beverages, but the main point of this whole event was to enjoy socializing and maybe pick up a bargain, or sell some of your prized possessions for someone else to enjoy. And in the end.....we did just that. I am looking forward to our next swap meet. Whether it be back at a building, or in the parking lot of the Red Cross. John Fifer, ABØZT





I had the opportunity to meet with Dan (NOPOT) at this Television Antenna for channel 42. Inside the building were racks of metal boxes with colored LED Lights.

I was more impressed with just looking at the antenna itself. Staring up it appeared to be still, but I was told it does have a bit of a swaying motion. No, we did not go up. But I did learn about something that I really did not think about. That being during the winter months, ice does form and accumulate during storms. And, when the time is just right, Hugh pieces of Ice come fluttering down crashing with an explosive sound as they hit the ground. You may not quite see it but in the bottom photo there was some damage to the roof from such event.



Brian — WE0BEP



In the Early 70's at Kessler AFB, I was trained to listen and copy Morse Code and relay it to a group of analysts to figure out what the Soviet Union was up to during the Cold War. Above is the AN/FLR-9 antenna (this one in Misawa Air Base Japan) was removed October 15, 2014.

The Elephant Cage, which was modeled on a previous German design, was built to **detect high-frequency radio waves** transmitted by the Soviet Union and its satellite states. It could directionally locate signals from up to 4,000 nautical miles away, according to Misawa officials.

The cage, which was built from 1963-65, stood 137 feet tall and contained three concentric circles. It was impossible to ignore, but its purpose remained classified for years.

For a close up of just what these antennas were and did, use the hyper link below.

Enjoy,

Brian P — WEOBEP

[The Last Elephant Cage - YouTube](#)

## Club Officers & Board Members

President	John E Fifer, Jr	ABØZT	president@aksarbenarc.org
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2022-2023 Director	Brian Pitchanau	WEØBEP	board@aksarbenarc.org

## Club Committees

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EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN	
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## Area Nets (Updated 27 June, 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

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

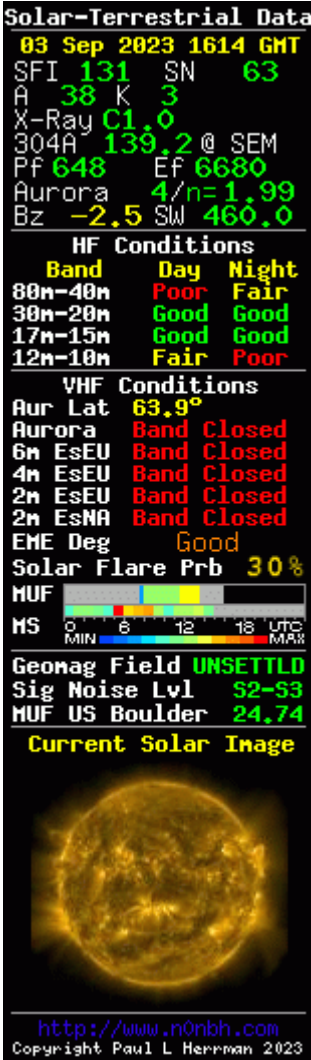
- 8:00 AM 3.902.500 Swap Net.
- 8:30 AM 3.897.500 3900 Club.
- 2:00 PM 50.200 6 Meter Net
- 8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.
- 8:30 PM Locally IRLP and the Nebraska IRLP net is heard on:
  - 145.410 - 97.4 PL ABOVX Honey Creek
  - 444.800 + 97.4 PL ABOVX Honey Creek
  - 444.925 + 136.5 PL KOBVC Mondamin
  - 146.745 - 136.5 PL KOBVC Portsmouth
  - 223.580 (Simplex) 100 PL KOOQL North Omaha
- 9:00 PM 146.940- Douglas Co. ARES net, KØUSA repeater.

## Hurricane Idalia:

Volunteers of ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® were using their Amateur Radio Service license privileges to serve communities affected by Hurricane Idalia. Idalia made landfall Wednesday, August 30 on Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 3 storm sustaining winds of 125 miles per hour. The storm tracked across Georgia and into South Carolina, and on Thursday morning it had moved offshore of North Carolina.

ARRL volunteers staffed key positions across the affected region. Section Emergency Coordinator of the ARRL Northern Florida Section Arc Thames, W4CPD, led the activation of Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers within the Section. Thames said the ARES volunteers would be staffing the radio room at the state Emergency Operation Center (EOC) until 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 31 and will provide additional service if needed. "So far there does not appear to be a large communications impact that would require amateur radio support," he said.

The Florida Statewide Amateur Radio Network (SARnet) was the primary emergency communications system used during the storm. The system is a series of linked UHF repeaters that covers the entire state. There were also HF nets linking counties to the state EOC.



Looking for someone to provide a short program on just what these charts are telling us. On Monday nights during the 2 meter Net 146.940, Norm — WAOJYD sometimes will provide the latest numbers on solar propagation. Maybe to some, this all makes sense, however, to me (Brian — WEOBEP) I do not really do not fully understand just what it means for example

The three main items you want to pay attention to are the **SFI** (Solar Flux Index), the **K-Index** and the **A-Index**.

What difference does the Kilo of 3 vice a 5 have on whether or not I might make a contact on 6 meters or 10 meters.

Same thing regarding the Alpha 38 being better or worst if it were 58.

I have found some explanation on YouTube when I asked: explain radio wave propagation.

Brian P —WEOBEP

## Here are some fun facts about ham radio history

The first amateur radio operator was licensed in 1921.

By the mid 1930s, there were around 20 amateur radio operators in India.

Amateur radio operators have played an important part in the Indian independence movement with the setting up of pro-independence radio stations in the 1940s.

There are nearly 3 million amateur radio operators worldwide.

The radio hobby has been around since the early 1900s and it shows no signs of slowing down.

**Ham radio, also known as amateur radio, has several benefits.**

**Here are some of them:**

**Emergency communication:** Ham radio is a reliable means of communication during emergencies when other networks may fail. In natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes, cellular and internet networks often go down, leaving people stranded and cut off from communication. Ham radio operators can communicate with each other without the need for cell phone towers or the internet .

**Community service:** Ham radio operators provide valuable community services during emergencies by relaying messages to and from emergency personnel and providing communications support to public events such as marathons and parades.

**Technical education:** Ham radio provides an opportunity to learn about electronics, radio wave propagation, and other technical subjects.

**International goodwill:** Ham radio provides a means of communication between people of different cultures and nationalities, promoting international goodwill and understanding.

**Fun:** Ham radio can be a fun hobby that allows you to communicate with people from all over the world using various modes such as CW, phone, SSB, FM, packet, TV, PACTOR, PSK31, RTTY, and other modes.