

# FLEA-ESTA

## AARC Flea Market

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, September 8, 2012

Sarpy County Fairgrounds, Springfield, Nebraska

For details, contact Pat Joseph KØCTU, email: [flea@aksarbenarc.org](mailto:flea@aksarbenarc.org)

Or see the link at the AARC web site, <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>

## AARC FIELD DAY!!!

The Field Day committee is dotting the "I"s and crossing the "T"s on a new location for the 2012 Field Day event: the grounds of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Crime Lab. The location was once the Thomas Fitzgerald Veterans Home and is located at 15345 W Maple Rd in Omaha and has lots of green space and trees for antennas, but offers some challenges as well.



But no matter where Field Day is held, shack captains, operators, loggers, and helpers are needed. If you'd like to be a Shack Captain, please fill out the Shack Captain Questionnaire. 2 meters, 6 meters, 10 meters, 15 meters, 20 meters, 40 meters and 80 meters, SSB, CW, data modes are all options. 2 meter FM can be fun as well. Also there are bonus points available for satellite contacts, bonus points for participants 18 or under who make a contacts. Bonus points for a PR table... so there is lots to do.. even if you don't want to be a shack captain. You also don't have to be there for the full 24 hours, but we do want to know you are coming (and about when and for how long) and what you will be operating... so fill out the Shack Captain Questionnaire on the AARC web site ([aksarbenarc.org](http://aksarbenarc.org)) !!!

So... If you don't want to be a shack captain, but would like to help setup, or operate, or log for a station, or have equipment you might be able to loan for the event you can email us at [fieldday@aksarbenarc.org](mailto:fieldday@aksarbenarc.org)

Of course, you can always just stop by and enjoy the site and chat with others visiting the area as well.

*Mary NØTRK*

## GREAT PLAINS SUPER LAUNCH

The 12th annual Great Plains Super Launch will be held in Omaha, Nebraska on June 7-10, 2012. The GPSL is an annual gathering of Amateur Radio High Altitude Ballooning enthusiasts from around the country to a site in the central US where they participate in technical presentations and a group launch.

The GPSL events are open to all interested individuals. For more information, please check <http://superlaunch.org>, or <http://nstar.org/gpsl2012>, or contact Mark Conner at [n9xtn@arrl.net](mailto:n9xtn@arrl.net) (phone at 402-201-4422).

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Ham Hum

Volume LXII, Issue 6

June 2012

## Space Weather, the Sun-Earth Connection, & Ham Radio



For the May meeting, Tomas Hood, NW7US, gave a presentation on how activity on the Sun affects amateur radio activity.

In his introductory remarks, he described how, at age nine, he'd gotten interested in SWL and ham radio when listening to his parent's Sony 4-band radio (shortwave, long wave, AM, and FM). He'd wondered about the strange sounds, CW, solar weather bulletins, and voices in different languages. It was like traveling the world without leaving home. Later, he learned code, got his Novice license and eventually obtained his Extra ticket. Along the way, he developed an interest in space weather, as he realized that conditions on the Sun would effect communications on Earth.

Using slides and videos, Tomas described those conditions. This included a short, intensive course on the structure of the ionosphere and its effect on radio—particularly HF. He discussed how the various ionospheric regions were affected by a normal day/night cycle and what happened when a solar flare occurred.

He also discussed some of the myths associated with solar weather that is glamorized by the media in order to boost ratings. Plus, he stated that it's difficult to predict space weather (NASA has a 100% failure rate). This is partly because it's a new science. Though scientists have been observing solar activity for 400 years, it's only been since the '70s that highly detailed and accurate measurements have been taken. And, considering that the Sun is over four billion years old, that's an infinitesimal amount of knowledge about its long-term behavior.

In all, the presentation was entertaining and educational. Tomas provided a lot more information than can be summarized here. For more information, please visit his web sites at: <http://sunspotwatch.com/> and <http://nw7us.us/>.

*[Among his many other activities, NW7US is a contributing editor for CQ Communications Magazine, CQ VHF Magazine, and Popular Communications Magazine.]*

*Bill KCØSVZ*

## June Meeting: Field Day

The Field Day Committee will discuss the planned festivities. See also Page 12, this issue.

Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Building, 81<sup>st</sup> & Spring Streets, Omaha, NE.

HAM HUM is the official newsletter of the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc. in Omaha, Nebraska. It is printed monthly and is distributed to members of the club, local disaster officials, local electronics outlets, and editors of other ham radio newsletters.

Articles about activities of members are solicited. The subject matter must be of general interest to radio amateurs and be understandable to a significant portion of the membership. No payment will be made to contributors and submissions will be subject to the usual editorial review. Articles containing statements that could be construed as libel or slander will not be accepted. No guarantee can be made that an accepted article will be published by a certain date. Send your contributions to Ham Hum, P.O. Box 24551, Omaha, NE 68124-0551 or email hamhum@aksarbenarc.org. Please contact the editor for permission to reprint anything appearing in the Ham Hum.

### Club Officers & Board Members

President	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Vice President	Scott Avery	KA4ZZQ	402-880-9246	scott@averysgk.com
2011-2012 Secretary	Bill True	WA9ASD	402-426-2813	williamtrue@aol.com
2011-2012 Treasurer	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	AEØEG@arrl.net
2012 Director	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	402-598-1521	akavan@gmail.com
2012 Director	Dave Rice	NØJSB	402-571-8915	davegr@netzero.net
Immediate Past President	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net

### Club Committees

Courtesy Committee	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		
Education	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Field Day	Rob Buchholz	KCØOYT	402-964-9960	kc0oyt@arrl.net
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7774	wa0zqg@yahoo.com
Prizes	Rollie Miller	ABØNN	402-333-1606	ab0nn@arrl.net
Public Service/Emergency	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
Publications	Bill Wilkinson	KCØSVZ	402-397-8803	kc0svz@yahoo.com
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL		k0il@arrl.net
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph	KØCTU	402-492-9156	ppjoseph@cox.net
Web Services	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net

### Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net
Vice Chairman	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Club Callsign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net

### Other Contacts

ARRL Midwest Director	Clifford Ahrens	KØCA	573-221-8618	k0ca@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS		
EC Douglas County	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		
Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
NE Section Manager	Art Zygjelbaum	KØAIZ	402-421-0839	KØAIZ@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		

### Address Change?

If you've changed your mailing address, or would prefer to receive the Ham Hum via email, please contact Mary NØTRK (Membership) or Bill KCØSVZ (Publications) with your new information.

### AARC on the Web

**Club Web Site:** <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/aksarbenarc>

**Yahoo! Groups:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AKSARBENTalk/>

# Tales of Anton Reeh

## Part I: Island Adventure

Bill WA9ASD

*[Editor's Note: The following account was passed on to the staff of the Ham Hum by WA9ASD, who obtained it from that world traveler and adventurer, Anton Reeh, UNIQUE (and holder of many other call signs). It will perhaps give some insight into the mysterious individual who has been contributing some of the more interesting door prizes to the monthly AARC meetings.]*

Anton Reeh acquired great wealth as a merchant in his home country, which allowed him to pursue his interest in radio and especially ham radio. Due to his wealth he was able to hire a staff to assist with his ventures and adventures.

On one occasion he had an opportunity to acquire some broadcasting permits in Argentina. In order to complete this deal he would have to travel to the country. Since he would be in the country for some time he had it arranged to obtain a ham license in Argentina so he could operate there. He was assigned the call of L3SS, due to his, hopefully, special status in the country.

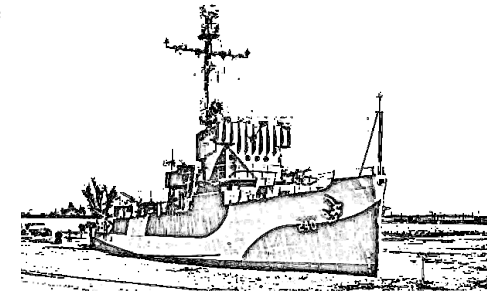
He also had an interest in running a DXpedition, but Argentina was not a particularly rare country. One activity that had caught his interest was the *Islands On The Air* events to activate mostly uninhabited islands for other hams to contact. His trip to South America would certainly afford pursuing this so he instructed his staff to locate an island and make the travel arrangements from Argentina to it for a one-week stay for some heavy duty operating. His staff, while not fully grasping the concept of the operating event, dutifully made the arrangements and obtained a suitable special call sign for that portion of the trip.

So, Anton made the trip to Argentina and but was unfortunately unsuccessful in completing his radio permits deal. He did, however, enjoy some part-time operating from another country in anticipation of his island stay.

When he left Argentina and was traveling on the next leg of his journey, he was reviewing the special license for the island operating event and was surprised to note his call sign was the US call sign in the tenth district of WØRTH. Thinking little of it he assumed it to be some island on the perimeter of the US.

When he finally arrived at his island location, he was able to understand how little his staff understood of his ham radio activities. While they had dutifully picked a splendidly named island they failed on the geography part of the assignment. For who could have known that such a well named place as Grand Island would be in the middle of Nebraska, a state not known for its islands.

With these lessons in mind and a bit of tongue in cheek, Anton reversed the call signs and to his dying day referred to this as the WØRTH/L3SS DXpedition.



(Dayton Hamvention *continued from page 8.*)

*So, what did you buy?*

I didn't really go down to Dayton with much of a shopping list. In addition to the PC boards, I did pick up a bunch of other little stuff including some strain reliefs, more clamp-on ferrite cores, a paddle pad from Vibroplex (\$1) to keep the paddle down at the club station from sliding around, and some tube sockets! One of the vendors there had a box of tube sockets that they were selling for a quarter apiece or five for a dollar. I picked out five and paid the lady, and as I was walking away, I decided that they were such a good deal that I went back and bought five more.

My biggest purchase was NT7S's OpenBeacon QRSS transmitter ([www.etherkit.com](http://www.etherkit.com)). It cost me \$40. It looks like a very nice kit, and I'm hoping to be on 30m QRSS shortly with it. The nice thing about this transmitter is that it has a microcontroller that lets it transmit DFCW and Hellschreiber, in addition to CW. It should be fun to both build and operate.

*Too rich for my blood*

In other news, both Kenwood and FlexRadio both introduced new radios at Dayton. Perhaps the most buzz was around the Kenwood TS-990. All they were showing was a prototype under a Plexiglass cover. In addition to being incredibly expensive, the radio is huge! I heard someone joke that to produce this radio, Kenwood is going to have to corner the market on buttons and knobs. If you've seen the photo in QST (which was allegedly produced with Photoshop), you'll know what I mean.

The other radio with a bit of buzz is the new FlexRadio FLEX-6000. For the past couple of weeks, the FlexRadio website was proclaiming that this radio was going to be a game changer. Perhaps it is, but at \$6,000+, this radio is out of my league, and too expensive for the majority of radio amateurs. That being the case, I really don't know what all the buzz is about.

I'm sure that the TS-990 and the FLEX-6000 are both great radios, but I think that the law of diminishing returns applies here. At some point, are you really getting \$6,000 or \$12,000 of fun out of the radio? I don't think that I would.

Well, that's it. Another Dayton Hamvention is in the bag. It was a lot of fun, and I'm already looking forward to next year. I've already contacted one of the forum organizers about adding an adult education forum. I think that's something that's both needed and would be popular. I'll just have to make sure to leave enough time to hit the flea market and grab some more tube sockets or coax or whatever.

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*When he's not tromping around flea markets, or attending conferences, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. His latest, 21 Things to Do After You Get Your Amateur Radio License, is available as an e-book from Amazon, Barnes&Noble, or from his website, <http://www.kb6nu.com/>. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).*

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*You may be a ham radio operator if...your call sign is listed on one or more of your hats, T-shirts, or other garments.*

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## Club Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2012

*Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC*

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 34 attendees. Introductions by name and call.

Officers and Board members present included: Mary, NØTRK; Marv, AEØEG; Bill, WA9ASD; Adam, KDØMMG and Dave, NØJSB.

Secretary's Report - A motion was made by Jim, KAØKCV, seconded by Adam, KDØMMG, to accept the February club meeting minutes as published in Ham Hum. There were no corrections required and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - There was income of \$33 and expenses of \$120 during the prior month bringing the balance in all of the accounts to \$22,717.

President's Report - Mary, NØTRK - Mary requested all club members who control on-line accounts in the club's name have at least one backup person designated who shares sign-on information. These individuals should be identified and that information provided to the club Secretary. This will allow club activities on-line to continue if the primary person for these accounts is out of town or unavailable for any reason. Similarly, written communications or e-mail that pertains to the club that has an address other than the Club PO Box or .....@aksarben.org should be identified and that address provided to the board so we know what correspondence to expect. Currently known on-line accounts include: The Yahoo Group Ak-Sar-Ben Talk, aksarbenarc.org (web site), Facebook, Twitter, gmail, LogbookOfTheWorld, and First National Bank.

Vice President's Report - The program for tonight's meeting will be "Space Weather, The Sun-Earth Connection, and Ham Radio" presented by Tomas David Hood, NW7US. He writes the monthly Radio Propagation / Space Weather columns for CQ Magazine, CQ VHF and Popular Communications.

Public Service - ARES/SATERN/Community Events

- Community Events - Pat, KØCTU - The NSAA State Track Meet will be Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19.
- The MARE event, August 11, will activate OMMRS - communications assistance will be needed at Offutt and area hospitals.
- ARES - Steve, NØUP - There will be an ARES meeting in June; another chance to get your badges.
- SATERN - Jim, KCØSHV - Salvation Army Disaster Services is moving to their new building at 107th and Burt streets. Access is expected in August or September.

Education Committee - Mary, NØTRK - The next license class will be for 7 weeks starting on June 18th from 6:30 to 9:00 at The Red Cross.

(Meeting Minutes *continued on page 4.*)

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 3.)

Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK - Club membership applications for the following hams have been received: William Taylor, KDØRMS; Peter Bolay, KDØRJX; Sean Moppin, KDØRMX; Mike Eaton, KDØRNA; and Ruben Teyes, KDØQWU. There was a motion by Bill, W5UZQ, seconded by Pat, KØCTU, to accept these new members to the club. Passed unanimously.

Club membership cards are available to pick up during the break.

Publications/Web Services

- Ham Hum - Bill, KCØSVZ - It's out.
- Web Services - Mary, NØTRK - The rebuilding continues.
- A gmail account has been created for the club. This gives us Google docs, Google voice and Google calendar.

Repeater Committee - Still working.

Field Day Committee - KCØOYT is our Field Day chairman. The site is planned for the former Thomas Fitzgerald Veterans Home at 156th and Maple. There is food and a hardware store nearby. Standing Bear Lake is a backup location.

Volunteers are needed including operators, helpers, station managers and digital operators, even if you don't have a rig and/or antennas the club can provide some.

QSL Committee/Technical Committee - no report. There were about 50 contacts made by KØUSA during the Nebraska QSO Party.

Courtesy Committee - Bill, KEØXQ - A card was sent to the family of WAØASMF on his passing. Although not a member of the club he was a long-time good friend of the club.

Trailer Committee - The committee is looking for a weekend to start modifications to the N6KVA trailer, probably after Memorial Day.

Equipment Committee - The labeling machine was purchased and on display at the meeting. The committee is working on a time to meet to finalize some processes.

Public Awareness

- Field Day is coming up.
- OSFEST is coming up in July.
- A letter was just sent to the Mid America Council of the Boy Scouts of America offering to participate in Jamboree On The Air in October and inviting them to our Field Day activities.

Flea Market - Coming up on September 9 at the Sarpy County Fairgrounds. We need volunteers for Friday and Saturday. There will be a pancake breakfast and door prizes. Reserve your tables now.

Old Business - none

New Business - none

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

## Contest Calendar

June 2012

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 8
Portugal Day Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Jun 9
DRCG Long Distance Contest, RTTY	0000Z-0759Z, 1600Z-2359Z, Jun 9 & 0800Z-1559Z, Jun 10
VK Shires Contest	0600Z, Jun 9 to 0600Z, Jun 10
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	1100Z-1300Z, Jun 9
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z, Jun 9 to 1500Z, Jun 10
REF DDFM 6m Contest	1600Z, Jun 9 to 1600Z, Jun 10
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Jun 9 to 0300Z, Jun 11
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jun 13
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 13 & 0300Z-0400Z, Jun 14
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Jun 13
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 13
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 15
All Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Jun 16 to 2400Z, Jun 17
SARL Youth Day Sprint	0700Z-1100Z, Jun 16
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1659Z, Jun 16 (144) and 1700Z-1759Z, Jun 16 (432)
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 16 to 0200Z, Jun 17
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2359Z, Jun 16
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Jun 16
WAB 50 MHz Phone	0900Z-1500Z, Jun 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 18
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jun 21
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 21
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	1200Z, Jun 23 to 1200Z, Jun 24
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 23 to 1200Z, Jun 24
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jun 23 to 1400Z, Jun 24
<b>ARRL Field Day</b>	<b>1800Z, Jun 23 to 2100Z, Jun 24</b>
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 27 & 0300Z-0400Z, Jun 28

July 2012

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone	1000Z-1400Z, Jul 1
10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party	0001Z, Jul 2 to 2400Z, Jul 8
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 3
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	2300Z, Jul 4 to 0300Z, Jul 5
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z, Jul 7 to 2359Z, Jul 8
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 7 to 1059Z, Jul 8
PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint	2000 local, Jul 7 to 0200 local, Jul 8
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Jul 8
QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Jul 8
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Jul 9

For details, check: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>



### Douglas County ARES Meeting

I have a Douglas County ARES meeting scheduled for June 19, 2012 beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Douglas County EOC which is located at 1819 Farnam Street.

This will be an opportunity for those who need storm spotter ID cards to get them.  
Steve Schmitz NØUP  
EC Douglas County ARES

## Dayton Hamvention 2012: Another great ham radio experience

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

My Dayton experience started at 3:45 am Thursday morning. That's when I had to get up so that I could make it to the Fairborn Holiday Inn in time for the first session of this year's Four Days in May (FDIM) conference. FDIM is a one-day conference put on by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (<http://qrparci.org/>) and is a great way to start the "Dayton experience."

This year, we were treated to six very fine presentations. They included talks on using microcontrollers for various projects, software-defined radio, VHF and UHF for QRPers, homebrewing with "hollow state" devices (more commonly known as tubes), using open-source electronic design tools, and operating pedestrian mobile. The two talks that I enjoyed the most were "Hollow State (Thermatron) Homebrewing" by Grayson, TA2ZGE/KJ7UM and "Leveraging Free and Open Source Tools in Homebrewing" by Jason, NT7S.

Friday morning, I got up early again, so that I could make the 7:30 AM bus to the Hamvention. We arrived about 8:00 AM, just as the gates were opening. The first thing that I did was to head to the FAR Circuits tent, which is—as the name implies—at the far end of the flea market. There, I made my first purchases, a board to make a regenerative receiver and one to make an audio breakout box.

The rest of the day was a combination of wandering the aisles of the outdoor flea market, fighting the crowds inside the arena, attending seminars, and meeting people that I know. By the time 4:30 PM rolled around, I was pretty hot and tired. Temperatures topped 80 degrees, and on the blacktop surface of the flea market, temperatures were undoubtedly higher. I was happy to get on the bus and head back to the hotel.

Saturday was pretty much the same story, except it was even hotter. The temperature almost hit 90 degrees. I didn't bring any sunscreen, either, so I got a little rosy.

I ran into some people that I knew that had just come down for the day, or perhaps that I'd missed the day before. One guy I ran into at the Ohio Repeater Council booth, pulled out his new Elecraft KX-3 and gave me a quick demo. It's actually quite a cool little radio. I'm still saving up for a K-3, though.

Around noon, I went to the food court for a slice of pizza and a glass of beer. Seating is catch as catch can, so I shared a table with several other hams. This is great because you get to meet all kinds of different people.

This year, an older gentleman sat down next to me with his beer. We got to chatting, and as it turned out, this was his 55th straight year attending the Dayton Hamvention! He started going before it was even held at Hara Arena, and even after they moved to Hara, they didn't use the entire facility as they do now. I'm really glad that I got to speak with him.

(Dayton Hamvention continued on page 10.)

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 4.)

Announcements - There are Creighton Baseball tickets available.

Door Prize Committee - Rollie, ABØNN - There are door prizes available. Get your tickets during the break. Included are the Brown Bag Door Prize and the dreaded Mr. Reeh Door Prize with the theme of "What Is It?" or "Who Would Want It?" This prize is from the extensive collection of ham artifacts amassed by the world famous DXer Anton Reeh, UNIQUE from Kazakhstan.

At 7:46 PM a motion was made by Steve, NØUP, seconded by Corby, KØSKW to end the meeting. Passed by unanimous vote.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

## May Door Prizes

Rollie, ABØNN, the Club's Official Door Prize Chairperson, announced that seven door prizes were up for grabs at the May meeting. Then, at the last minute, two more were contributed to make a total of nine prizes. These were (in no particular order): two 50-foot medium-duty extension cords, a Chaney Electronics surface-mount LED flasher kit, the Brown Bag Door Prize, a 250 watt halogen 4-N-1 Power Light, the Mr. Reeh Door Prize, an ARRL Repeater Directory, a flexible hands-free LED HUGlight, and a Fashion Cleaners \$50 Gift Card.

The winners were (again in no particular order): Bill, W5UZQ, won the HUGlight. Jim, KCØSHZ, was awarded both the Surface Mount kit and the Brown Bag Prize (a power strip). One of the two extension cords went to Russ, NØMNW, while Michael, KDØRNA got the other one. Marvin, AEØEG, was the lucky recipient of the Repeater Directory, and Dave, NØJSB, got the \$50 certificate. Claudia, K1AUD, got the halogen light. Adam, KDØMMG, won the Mr. Reeh Door Prize, which turned out to be a heavy metal utility box. (See page 11 for an article that may shed some light upon the man of mystery, Mr. Reeh.)

Note that the proceeds for each month's tickets go for buying next month's prizes. Each month's tickets are kept and included in the Grand Prize(s) drawing in December. The more tickets you buy each month, the better your chances of winning at the end of the year.

Bill KCØSVZ

## Heathkit Closes Up Shop

Last month, the ARRL reported that Heathkit Educational Systems laid off most of their staff in March, 2012 and ceased operations. Heath was once a major manufacturer of electronic kits (including ham radio). They dropped their kit product line in the '90s, but tried to re-introduce it in August, 2011 with an entry-level Garage Parking Assistant kit. They were planning on bringing back amateur radio kits, but weren't able to do that in time.

(Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/heathkit-educational-systems-closes-up-shop>)

## Area Nets

### Monday

7:00 PM 145.290 South-West Iowa ARES Glenwood, IA.  
9:00 PM 146.940 AARC Social Net. Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Omaha, NE.

### Thursday

8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.  
8:00 PM 146.360 Heartland DX Association.

### Tuesday

7:00 PM 147.360 QCWA Hams who have been hams for at least 25 years.  
8:00 PM 50.200 6-Meter SSB Net.  
9:00 PM 145.310 Washington County ARES Washington county, NE.

### Saturday

12:00 PM 146.82 Swap Net Council Bluffs, IA.  
8:30 PM 3.921.000 QCWA Chapter 20.

### Wednesday

7:00 PM 146.670 Dodge County ARES Dodge county, NE.  
8:00 PM 145.310 Saunders County ARES Saunders county, NE.  
9:00 PM 146.820 Pottawattamie County ARES Council Bluffs, IA.

### Sunday

8:00 AM 3.902.500 Swap Net.  
8:30 AM 3.896.000 3900 Club.  
8:30 PM 443.925+ (103.5 tone) IRLP Net.  
9:00 PM 146.940- Douglas County ARES net, KØUSA repeater.

Please let us know of any updates or corrections to the above. (Thanks to Rich WAØZQG for updates to the AARC Social Net start time and BVARC status.)

## Amateur Radio License Class

The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club will be conducting a course preparing individuals to become licensed ham radio operators. The course is held from 6:30 PM to 9 PM on Mondays starting on June 18<sup>th</sup> and will run for 7 weeks. The Class will be held at the Heartland Chapter House of the American Red Cross 2912 S 80<sup>th</sup> Ave in Omaha. The course is free of charge and the course text book is available for a discount via the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club.

Advanced registration is required by going to [www.aksarbenarc.org](http://www.aksarbenarc.org) or by calling (402) 915-3494.

Mary NØTRK

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## Silent Keys

### Walter Ursdevenicz, NØHVD

Omaha amateur radio operator Walter Ursdevenicz, NØHVD, died at age 89 on May 12, 2012 at Bellevue Medical Center in Bellevue, Nebraska. Wally was formerly a member of the Club and a regular at club meetings and flea markets.

### Russ Minks WAØVEE

Long time Club member Russ Minks, WAØVEE, became a Silent Key on May 22, 2012 at age 88. A former WWII gunner on a B17 Flying Fortress, Russ served as AARC President in 1973 and was a friend of the Club for many years.

## Club Calendar

**Jun 7-10** Great Plains Super Launch. Omaha and Strategic Air & Space Museum, Ashland.  
**Jun 8** 7:00 PM AARC Club Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81<sup>st</sup> & Spring St, Omaha, NE.  
**Jun 9** 11:00 AM Midwest Home Brewers & QRP Group, Bredeaux Pizza, Ashland, NE.  
**Jun 13** 7:30 PM Lincoln Amateur Radio Club Meeting. 4647 Superior St, Lincoln, NE.  
**Jun 16** 6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108<sup>th</sup> & L Streets, Omaha, NE.  
**Jun 18** 6:30 PM Technician Class. Details on AARC web site. Red Cross bldg. Omaha.  
**Jun 19** 6:30 PM Douglas Co. ARES meeting. Douglas Co. EOC, 1819 Farmnam, Omaha.  
**Jun 21** 7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE  
**Jun 22** 7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.  
**Jun 23-24** **Field Day. Details on Page 12 and the AARC web site.**  
**Jun 25** 6:30 PM Technician Class. Details on AARC web site. Red Cross bldg. Omaha.  
**Jun 26** 6:30 PM AARC Board Meeting. Village Inn, 7837 Dodge St., Omaha, NE.  
**Jun 28** 7:30 PM Southwest Iowa ARC Meeting. 705 N 16<sup>th</sup>, Council Bluffs, IA.  
**Jul 2** 6:30 PM Technician Class. Details on AARC web site. Red Cross bldg. Omaha.  
**Jul 9** 6:30 PM Technician Class. Details on AARC web site. Red Cross bldg. Omaha.  
**Jul 11** 7:30 PM Lincoln Amateur Radio Club Meeting. 4647 Superior St, Lincoln, NE.  
**Jul 13** 7:00 PM AARC Club Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81<sup>st</sup> & Spring St, Omaha, NE.  
**Jul 14** 11:00 AM Midwest Home Brewers & QRP Group, Bredeaux Pizza, Ashland, NE.  
**Jul 14** PARC 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Flea Market. 8<sup>th</sup> & Locust St, North Bend, NE.  
**Jul 16** 6:30 PM Technician Class. Details on AARC web site. Red Cross bldg. Omaha.  
**Jul 19** 7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE  
**Jul 21** 6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108<sup>th</sup> & L Streets, Omaha, NE.  
**Jul 23** 6:30 PM Technician Class. Details on AARC web site. Red Cross bldg. Omaha.  
**Jul 26** 7:30 PM Southwest Iowa ARC Meeting. 705 N 16<sup>th</sup>, Council Bluffs, IA.  
**Jul 27** 7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.  
**Jul 30** 6:30 PM Technician Class. Details on AARC web site. Red Cross bldg. Omaha.  
**Jul 31** 6:30 PM AARC Board Meeting. Village Inn, 7837 Dodge St., Omaha, NE.  
**Sep 8** 8:00 AM AARC Flea-esta. Sarpy County Fairgrounds, Springfield, NE.  
**Oct 13** Hamboree 2012 (Iowa State Convention). 903 Topaz Drive, Sergeant Bluff, IA.

For more details and the latest updates, see the *Upcoming Events* section of the AARC web site (<http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>).

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## Want Ads

**For Sale** ARRL The Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1965. No stains, all pages still attached. Proceeds go back to the AARC. \$5.00. See *eSwap* section of AARC web site for details (<http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>).

**For Sale** Rig Blaster USB. I have a Rig Blaster USB interface for ICOM. Used once. Asking price is \$50.00 or best offer. Contact: Bill KEØXQ. Email: ke0xq@cox.net

**For Sale** SkyWarn Signs (used). I have a pair of magnetic SkyWarn signs. Price \$10.00. If interested, send me an email. Contact: Bill KEØXQ. Email: ke0xq@cox.net

**Book Wanted** (buy or borrow) Biography of Leo Meyerson (S.K.) In Tune With Leo, by Leo Meyerson, WØGFQ, and Jim Musgrove, K5BZH. Contact Dennis Condron, KØLGI. Email: de.k0lgi@gmail.com