

The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club Presents

FLEA-ESTA

Annual Ham Radio Flea Market

Breakfast • Door Prizes

Free Parking

September 8th, 2012

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Sarpy County Fair Grounds

Springfield, Nebraska

8' Tables

\$8 each if paid in advance

\$10 each if paid at the door

Admission- \$4

Door Prizes include:

A Kindle Fire!

A Hand Held Radio!

and much much more!

Talk in on 146.940

KØUSA Repeater

Pancake Breakfast and

Refreshments on site

402-492-9156 • flea@aksarbenarc.org • www.aksarbenarc.org

The Flea-Esta in an ARRL Sanctioned Event

Table Registration Form

Name: _____ Callsign: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Number of Tables: _____ @\$8.00 each = \$ _____

Payment must accompany Registration for tables to be assigned to you.

Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club
C/O Pat Joseph
1821 Robertson Dr. Omaha, NE 68114

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

Volume LXII, Issue 8

August 2012

Makers and Software Defined Radio



Erik (left) and Travis (right) with the SDR dongle shown above them.

Two speakers gave presentations for the July meeting: Erik Kaplan and Travis Smith. Erik talked about the Omaha Maker Group (<http://omahamakergroup.org/>), while Travis discussed one of the group's projects, Software Defined Radio (SDR).

Erik, the Group's Vice President, described Makers as creative people who explore the possibility of using the mind to see what they can make. They're garage inventors who prefer to build instead of buy, or—if they do buy—find a way to make it better. They recycle and repurpose things;

adapting them for new and improved uses.

Makers usually do this in what they call a Maker Space, a term that defines the Maker community as a whole. It's their "garage" where they get together for collaborative creation. Maker Spaces are located in a lot of cities, but for the Omaha group, it's the Makery at 4388 Nicholas street. Originally housing a bakery (hence, the name), the group moved in after organizing in late 2011.

Erik talked about the group organization, dues, contests, history, future plans, and group projects (a 3D printer, for example). He then turned the presentation over to Travis Smith, who discussed a project of interest to hams: Software-defined radios.

An SDR—which uses embedded processors to emulate tuners, mixers, modulators, detectors, and amplifiers—is a concept familiar to many hams, but is usually part of a more expensive system and doesn't lend itself to easy experimentation. What's interesting about the one Travis discussed is that it's built into a USB stick and sells in the \$20-\$30 range. These SDRs use the Realtek RTL2832/Elonics E4000 chip set, which became available just last April. (A search on eBay shows several sources for these devices. See http://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_nkw=rtl2832+e4000 or <http://tinyurl.com/8v4242u>)

(Makers and SDR continued at bottom of page 5.)

August Meeting

The subject for the August meeting wasn't announced at publication deadline, but it's likely to be interesting. Check the AARC web site (page 2) for more information and be sure to attend.

Friday, August 10th, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Building, 81st & 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.

Tales of Anton Reeh

DXpedition to Barbados

Bill WA9ASD

[Editor's Note: Here's another installment in the life of Anton Reeh by his biographer, WA9ASD. In it, he clears up the mystery of Mr. Reeh's harrowing adventure to the Lesser Antilles. (Anton holds many call signs and contributes door prizes to the monthly AARC meetings.)]

Another attempt by Anton Reeh, UNIQUE to 'make his name' in DXing was an island visit he planned in the late 80s.

There was an island named Fran an' Staatin Island (not to be confused with Fran in Statten Island who was famous for her dancing) not too far off the eastern coast of Barbados.

The description of the island from early scientific expeditions there included "The island supports dry forest. It is an important breeding site for seabirds such as Red-billed Tropicbird, Audubon's Shearwater, Brown Booby, Brown Noddy, the rock band Sooty and the White Booty and a few Bridled Terns. A few pairs of White-tailed Tropicbirds have also recently started nesting (t)here for tanning purposes."

When Anton and his operators and equipment arrived on Barbados they discovered that the dock and available boat to ferry them to the island were extremely small. This only allowed half of the operators to reach the island on each trip with a third trip bringing the equipment.

When the operators arrived on the island they found the natives cooking a dish over open fires up the beach and were invited to join them in their repast.

The natives were cooking a mixture of finely ground wheat with lard in a pan topped with mashed fruit and a little sugar cane and water.

Since it was late in the day the crew joined the natives with their snacks just out of sight of the dock, while they awaited the arrival of the equipment.

Since the ferry boat was so small the two 30 gallon drums of gasoline for the generator had to be towed behind the boat (they barely floated) to allow all of the equipment to make it in one trip. What the DXpedition operators and Anton could not see while they ate was that one of the drums of gasoline began to leak. Since the can was wet when the natives put it on the dock the leak was not noticed. Similarly, the leak was not noticed when the second can was dropped next to the first one on the dock, hitting it and emitting a small spark.

As the sun slowly set in the west the DXpedition operators watched in amazement as there was a huge bonfire started on the beach to honor their arrival. What they didn't see was the gasoline, the generator, all of their equipment, the dock, and the ferry boat going up in flames.

Their stay on the island extended for several days as they waited for the natives to build a new dock and ferry boat from the available materials. In the meantime they made good use of the natives cooking ability and their special call sign for the trip, while never contacting anyone with the call sign of 8P1E.

A couple of years after the ill-fated trip the island was washed away during a hurricane and was removed from the DX Entities List. Hence, there can never be another operation from 8P1; as the island took an un-Bridled Tern for the worse.

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 Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	402-421-0839	K0AIZ@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/>

Club Calendar

Aug 8	7:30 PM Lincoln Amateur Radio Club Meeting. 4647 Superior St, Lincoln, NE.
Aug 10	7:00 PM AARC Club Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
Aug 11	8:00 AM MARE – OMMRS Drill.
Aug 11	11:00 AM Midwest Home Brewers & QRP Group, Bredeaux Pizza, Ashland, NE.
Aug 11	1:00 PM BARC VE Session, 11111 S 84th St, Papillion, NE.
Aug 15	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Aug 16	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE
Aug 18	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Aug 23	7:30 PM Southwest Iowa ARC Meeting. 705 N 16 th , Council Bluffs, IA.
Aug 24	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Aug 28	6:30 PM AARC Board Meeting. Village Inn, 7837 Dodge St., Omaha, NE.
Sep 1	6:00 AM Omaha Marathon.
Sep 8	8:00 AM AARC Flea-esta. Sarpy County Fairgrounds, Springfield, NE.
Sep 9	7:30 PM Lincoln Amateur Radio Club Meeting. 4647 Superior St, Lincoln, NE.
Sep 14	7:00 PM AARC Club Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
Sep 15	11:00 AM Midwest Home Brewers & QRP Group, Bredeaux Pizza, Ashland, NE.
Sep 15	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Sep 19	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Sep 20	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE
Sep 25	6:30 PM AARC Board Meeting. Village Inn, 7837 Dodge St., Omaha, NE.
Sep 25	6:30 PM AARC VE Session, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.
Sep 27	7:30 PM Southwest Iowa ARC Meeting. 705 N 16 th , Council Bluffs, IA.
Sep 28	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Oct 13	9:00 AM Hamboree (Iowa State Convention). 903 Topaz Drive, Sergeant Bluff, IA.
Oct 14	1:00 PM Crop Walk.

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

Area Nets

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<u>7:00 PM</u> 145.290 South-West Iowa ARES Glenwood, IA.	<u>7:00 PM</u> 147.360 QCWA Hams who have been hams for at least 25 years.	<u>7:00 PM</u> 146.670 Dodge Co. ARES Dodge Co, NE.
<u>9:00 PM</u> 146.940 AARC Social Net. Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Omaha, NE.	<u>8:00 PM</u> 50.200 6m SSB Net.	<u>8:00 PM</u> 145.310 Saunders Co. ARES Saunders Co, NE.
	<u>9:00 PM</u> 145.310 Washington Co. ARES Washington Co, NE.	<u>9:00 PM</u> 146.820 Pottawattamie County ARES Council Bluffs, IA.
Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
<u>8:00 PM</u> 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.	<u>12:00 PM</u> 146.82 Swap Net Council Bluffs, IA.	<u>8:00 AM</u> 3.902.500 Swap Net.
<u>8:00 PM</u> 146.360 Heartland DX Association.	<u>8:30 PM</u> 3.921.000 QCWA Chapter 20.	<u>8:30 AM</u> 3.896.000 3900 Club.
		<u>8:30 PM</u> 443.925+ (103.5 tone) IRLP Net.
		<u>9:00 PM</u> 146.940- Douglas Co. ARES net, KØUSA repeater.

Please let us know of any updates or corrections to the above.

Club Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2012

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 29 attendees. Introductions by name and call.

Officers and Board members present included: Mary, NØTRK; Scott, KA4ZZQ; Bill, WA9ASD; Marv, AEØEG; Adam, KDØMMG and Dave, NØJSB.

Secretary's Report - A motion was made by Marv, AEØEG, seconded by Bill, W5UZQ, to accept the June club meeting minutes as published in *Ham Hum*. There were no corrections required and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Marv reported that there was no income and expenses of \$28.78 for refreshments during the prior month bringing the balance in all of the accounts to \$22,641.77.

Vice President's Report - Scott reported that the program for tonight's meeting will be by members of the Omaha Makers Group - A \$20 Computer Controlled Radio.

Public Service – ARES/SATERN/Community Events

- Community Events - Pat, KØCTU - The MARE or Major Accident Response Event will be August 11.
- There will be an OMMRS Activation - communications assistance will be needed at the following area hospitals: Bellevue Medical Center, Midlands Hospital, Boys Town, VA, and maybe Douglas County Health.
- The Omaha Marathon will be Sunday, September 23. There will be 3 distances; 10K, 1/2 marathon, and a full marathon, starting at TD Ameritrade Park. Pat is looking for an assistant for this event.
- The Crop Walk will be in October.
- The Market to Market Run will also be on October.
- ARES - no report.
- SATERN - no report.

Education Committee - Mary, NØTRK - The license class is under way. Three of the students made it out to our Field Day site. We started with seven students and we have lost two.

Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK - Adam has membership cards

Publications/Web Services

- *Ham Hum* - Bill, KCØSVZ - It's out.
- Web Services - Mary, NØTRK - It's coming along.

Repeater Committee - Use it.

Field Day Committee - It's coming.

The club operated 8A from the Douglas County Crime Lab site at 156th and Maple. NØUP was on 15, AEØEG was on 40, KØCTU was on 20, KDØMMG was on 10, KØSKW was on PSK and Andrew, son of NØUP, worked 2m/440 and 220.

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 4.)

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 3.)

Field Day Committee (continued)

The OMMRS Trailer was the site of 3 stations. That trailer was purchased with one-time grant money. There are a few things that the trailer needs and as a thank you to the OMMRS Communications Committee for allowing the club to use it the club approved up to \$75 to purchase them. Wheel covers, wheel chocks and a fire extinguisher were suggested.

OSL Committee/Technical Committee - no report

Courtesy Committee - no report

Trailer Committee - It is currently at the NØTRK residence and there was a work party July 7. The sides are insulated and the top will be next. There will probably be another work day in a few weeks.

Equipment Committee - The committee met on July 7. A donated HF rig was sent to Burghardt for repair. A selection of donated equipment has been identified as to be sold.

- The next meeting will be to define the processes and rules for borrowing club equipment.
- If you know the location of club equipment please send that information to equipment@aksarbenarc.org.
- Thanks to Pat, Bill, Steve, and Corby for spending the day working on the trailer and the equipment.

Public Awareness - Field Day was well attended by guests. We saw lots of faces and the new location was great.

- OSFEST is in July. We will present a program and have a table. We need some help staffing the table so please contact Mary after the meeting if you are interested. The event is July 27, 28, and 29.
- We are planning on participating in Jamboree On The Air in October.

Flea Market - Get your tables. We are still working on the prize list. A Kindle Fire tablet computer has been purchased as one of the grand prizes.

Old Business - SATERN Disaster Services is moving in August to their new building. We need volunteers to get our meeting announcements on local public calendars.

New Business - none

Announcements - The Pioneer Club in Fremont is holding their flea market in North Bend tomorrow.

- We have received an announcement of a flea market in Joplin, MO on August 24.
- The Heartland Homebrew Club will be meeting tomorrow in Ashland from 11 until 2 or later.

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

Contest Calendar

August 2012

ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 7
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z & 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 8 and 0300Z-0400Z, Aug 9
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Aug 8
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 10
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 10
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 11 to 2359Z, Aug 12
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 11 to 0400Z, Aug 12 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 12
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2359Z, Aug 12
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Aug 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Aug 15
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 17
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 17
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Aug 18 to 1600Z, Aug 19
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Aug 18 to 2400 local, Aug 19
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 18 to 0600Z, Aug 19
ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	1800Z-2359Z, Aug 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 20
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 22
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z & 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 22 and 0300Z-0400Z, Aug 23
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 24
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 24
Hawaii QSO Party	0400Z, Aug 25 to 2200Z, Aug 26
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 25 to 1200Z, Aug 26
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 25 to 1159Z, Aug 26
Kansas QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 25 to 0200Z, Aug 26 and 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 26
QRP ARCI Welcome to QRP	1500Z-1800Z, Aug 25
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 25 to 0400Z, Aug 26
SARL HF CW Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Aug 26
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 31
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 31

September 2012

All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 1 to 2400Z, Sep 2
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z, Sep 1
Colorado QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 1 to 0400Z, Sep 2
CWops CW Open	1200Z-1559Z & 2000Z-2359Z, Sep 1 and 0400Z-0759Z, Sep 2
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 1
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 2
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 2 to 0300Z, Sep 3
MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 3 to 0300Z, Sep 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 4
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 7
PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80m Sprint	2000 local, Sep 7 to 0200 local, Sep 8
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 8 to 2359Z, Sep 9
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 8 to 0300Z, Sep 10
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 9
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 9
Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	1300Z-1900Z, Sep 9
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Sep 10

Sources: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> & <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>

.94 Net History

(Editor's Note: Bill KEØXQ submitted the following memories of net activity on 146.94 of two decades ago. Apparently it's somewhat quieter nowadays.)

I came across a tablet from the early 1990's from a Sunday night net on 146.94. Below is a list that checked into the net on this particular evening (Net Control, KEØXQ):

KGØEJ	KBØANV	WAØDGA	KAØGEK	NØLFR	WØEGM
WDØGHA	AAØVS	KBØKYM	KBØCIG	KAØBDT	N2DLY
NØRXN	KBØMSR	NØHPP	NØZX	KBØOUC	WØYDV
WØWRE	WAØUKE	NØXBQ	WAØZQX	KGØNE	KØPQR
KBØTTT	KBØRHU	K9RZ	N9XTN	WA6POZ	NØTRK
KBØTTO	KBØURX	NØUUZ	KAØUWO	NØXII	N3BHP
KBØURZ	WDØGCN	NØYAZ	KFØFO	WBØCMC	W5UZQ
KGØXJ	WDØBVH	KGØSY	WJØZ	WBØHWF	WBØRJJ
NØXIT	KA4ZZQ				

There were 51 check-ins on this night. Also, *Newsline* was played. Some Sundays there were over 100 stations checking into the net.

Bill KEØXQ

Side Winders On Two

Rich WAØZQG forwarded the following information from Phil, NØPB:

Northern Missouri SWOT Net Monday 8PM 144.250
 Net meets every Monday evening.
 Early checkins on bigwheels at 7:45 PM CST 144.250 USB
 Regular net at 8:00 PM CST, preamble on bigwheels, then switch to beam pointed south then go counter-clockwise. South 8:00, East 8:15, North 8:30, West 8:45 and end South 9:00.

If two-meter DXing sounds interesting, check out NØPB's web site at: <http://n0pb.mystarband.net/>

July Door Prizes

Alas, there were no goodies handed out in July as the Door Prize Hero, Rollie ABØNN, was unable to attend the meeting. Perhaps in August...

Bill KCØSVZ

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 4.)

Announcements (continued)

- There will be a License exam session at the Red Cross on July 31 at 6:30.
- Jon Minks, son of Russ Minks, WAØVEE, SK brought in a list of additional equipment of his dad's he has for sale.
- Bill, WA9ASD has a list of club equipment that is for sale.

Door Prize Committee - Rollie, ABØNN

There were no door prizes as Rollie could not make it to the meeting.

At 7:41 PM a motion was made by Corby, KØSKW, seconded by Jim, KCØSHZ to end the meeting. Passed by unanimous vote.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

Joseph E. Nanos, KØKES, Silent Key

Omaha amateur radio operator Joe Nanos, KØKES, passed away on July 15, 2012 at age 68. Joe was formerly a member of the Club, an Elmer to many, and was known for his proficiency at high-speed CW.

(Makers and SDR continued from page 1.)

Travis stated that he played with scanners as a kid and, when he recently discovered the USB SDR, realized that it could be used as a cheap scanner. A web search showed that it was being used in radio-telescopes, but that was too advanced to start with, so he went back to the scanner idea. He found a free Windows program called *HDSDR* (<http://www.hdsdr.de/>) that did what he wanted, so used it. He stated that there's also *gnuradio* (<http://gnuradio.org/>) for Linux users, and a program called *SDR#* (<http://sdrsharp.com/>) that comes with the C# source code. The above applications allow tuning the SDR stick over a wide frequency range: 64-1700 MHz, though with a gap at 975-1310 MHz. Modulation types include AM, ECSS, FM, SSB, and CW. Because of its design, the system also functions as a spectrum analyzer.

Travis attempted to demonstrate the unit for the Club by tuning to NOAA at 162.40, but encountered poor reception: The building attenuated the signal too much for the internal antenna, and there appeared to be a problem with the cable to the outside. He was finally able to get a signal to display when Tomas NW7US used his HT to transmit some test messages on 146.52.

Travis' talk was interesting and covered much more than described above. You can watch a video of it here: <http://techomaha.com/2012/07/ak-sar-ben-radio-club-sdr/>

Bill KCØSVZ

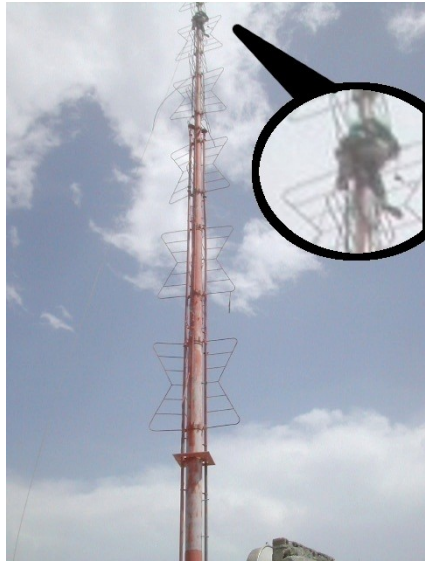
You may be a ham radio operator if... You have gone into the local Radio Shack store, and the store clerk has asked you where something is and how it works.

RETURN TO HAITI

John WBØCMC

(In July, 2012 John made a follow-up trip to Gonaives, Haiti, to continue making improvements on the TV and FM stations belonging to Pastor Revenel Benoit's Lutheran Church. For details on the earlier trip, see the March, May, and June 2011 issues of the Ham Hum.)

This trip there were three of us going: Joe Francis our tower climber, Bill Gartner our electrical guy, and myself. The new generator was there and in Revenel's possession and the tower repair parts had been shipped over a year earlier. We had to overnight in Ft Lauderdale and fly into Port-au-Prince early the next morning, Thursday. We were met by one of Revenel's people and drove directly to Gonaives. Rather than go to the guest house we went to the customs office where Revenel was arguing with them over the value of the generator. I had sent Revenel my invoice a couple of weeks prior, but that wasn't good enough for them: They had put a seal on the gen-set until they got the paperwork that they wanted and the duty paid. That meant that Bill wouldn't have as much to do. Revenel was able to get it "sprung" the day before our departure. Customs charged 18%, about \$2900 US. It seems that they now also want some kind of value on items that have been donated so I'll have to get something from future donors.



Joe stripping the old lines.

On Friday, the repair parts had still not been taken to the mountain and, due to truck breakdowns, didn't make it until too late in the day to do anything but unload. We did get the old gen-set disconnected and out of the way, and Joe was able to start stripping the old lines off the tower. They were in much worse shape than we had originally thought.

Near sunset, Joe was coming off the tower and tried to avoid stepping on the hacksaw dangling from a line on his harness, tripped on a rock, stumbled and landed on his wrist breaking his arm. Saturday morning, Revenel took him to get it x-rayed. It was a simple fracture of the radius and ulna. The doc put a cast on it and gave Joe a pain shot. Total bill, not quite \$8 US. He couldn't climb any more this trip. Bill was the only one who stayed in good health. I had gotten some bad orange juice the night before we left Omaha and wasn't feeling too good by the time we got to Gonaives. I had diarrhea all day Friday and



Joe with his new cast watching work on the tower. Background: New lines laid out waiting for prep prior to installing.

Saturday and no appetite until Revenel got me some antibiotic Saturday evening. I was feeling better within about a half an hour. I did eat a good breakfast Sunday morning but didn't go to church.

Sunday afternoon Joe and I were able to train three of the Haitians to climb towers and do the work. They did seem to have a natural ability for the work and by sunset Monday had the entire tower stripped and four of the new lines in place. Joe felt confident enough that the new tower crew could finish the job. He will have to come back at a later date and use his practiced eye to inspect the work, plus I'll need to do some testing with the transmitter after we get the new gen-set installed and Joe does his inspection.



Kaliko Beach

Tuesday we headed to Kaliko, a seaside resort only about an hour from the airport so we could make a 10 AM flight. Much better to need only an hour than the two-and-a-half or so from Gonaives; where one might encounter road hazards, demonstrations, open markets blocking the road, or something else. Kaliko is a good place to stay, but was much more expensive this time. We might have to start looking for a cheaper place. It looks like the next trip will be in December. That will be the only time Joe can take off. We should be able to finish the antenna and test it and get the "new" studio cameras installed. Revenel needs to do some work at the studio to prepare the floor for the camera pedestals, find some air conditioners so the areas can be mostly sealed off from the heat, dust and humidity—all three of which will be hard on the cameras. Two like those at the guest house would do the job, one for the studio and the other for the control room.

We came back through O'Hare and, true to form, were delayed by weather for about four hours. One bright spot was a blue grass trio waiting for a flight to Atlanta. After an hour or so they got out their instruments and did a concert right there in the terminal to the delight of a lot of otherwise disgruntled passengers. It lasted about 45 minutes and they were really good. They played till the announcement was made that the weather hold was lifted and planes started to board.

Satan had lots of stumbling blocks this trip but all they did was delay us. Pray for our next trip.

Finally, I must give credit to Bob DeMattia with the Minuteman Repeater Association, K1IW, and WCVB TV for donating the few parts that make the new transmitter complete. It's been over a year, but we finally got them down there and installed. Thanks again, Bob.

Next report in December or January if all goes well.



Sunset after storm on Kaliko Beach.