



Membership Form 2012

This form may be used for any of the following purposes (check all that apply):

- Pay Dues (New Renew)
- Change of Mailing Address
- Update personal information (new callsign, upgrade, etc.)

Personal Information

Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____ ARRL Member? Yes No

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Ham Hum Delivery: Mail Email

Spouse Information (complete only for spouse applying at same time)

Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Name _____

Email Address: _____ ARRL Member? Yes No

Minor Dependent (complete only for minors applying at the same time)

Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Name _____ ARRL Member? Yes No

_____ Yes No

_____ Yes No

_____ Yes No

New Member Application Signature

I agree to conduct my activities in accord with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Signature

Date

| Annual Dues (January thru December) | | |
|---|--|-------------------|
| For Club Use Only – DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Member | \$20.00 year | Amount: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accompanying Spouse | \$ 4.00 year | Amount: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accompanying Minor Dependent | \$ 4.00 year times number of minors renewing | Amount: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member (full time student) | \$ 8.00 year | Amount: _____ |
| | | Total Paid: _____ |

Make sure your information is correct and return this form to the Club with your dues. Dues are payable at any time and are considered in arrears if not received by Feb 28. Club members renewing within two years of their last year of paid membership must still pay the the full years dues. After two years, members must reapply for membership.

Ham Hum

Volume LXII, Issue 1

January 2012

December Celebration



There was food, prizes, and the election of Club Officers. More photos inside.

Club Officers for 2012

The following people accepted AARC leadership positions for the coming year.

NØTRK – Mary Joseph, President

KA4ZZQ – Scott Avery, Vice President

KDØMMG – Adam Kavan, Director

NØJSB – Dave Rice, Director

Bill True, WA9ASD, and Marvin Taylor, AE0EG, will continue as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Congratulations to all!

January Meeting: The Last Big Field Day

January 13, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring Streets, Omaha, NE.

BYLAWS CHANGES

We will be voting on adding an Equipment Committee to the Club Bylaws. See page 15 for a description of the change and proxy voting information in case you can't attend. See above for meeting time and place.

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 | <i>(Open)</i> | | | |
| Education | Mary Joseph | NØTRK | 402-492-9156 | n0trk@arrl.net |
| Field Day | Claudia Peterson | K1AUD | 402-593-1950 | kc0sqx@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 Sary 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 | KØAIZ@arrl.org |
| Official Observer Coordinator | Bill McCollum | KEØXQ | | ke0xq@cox.net |

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/>

Addition of Equipment Committee to Club Bylaws

Whereas: The club owns numerous physical assets including but not limited to: radios, repeaters, accessories, generators, wires, cables, antennas and other items stored in a variety of locations and

Whereas: The club shall continue to acquire, through purchase and donation, and dispose of assets as it sees fit and

Whereas: These physical assets enable the activities of the club, provide good and valuable resources for the amateur radio community and provide for the public benefit through emergency and public service activities.

Thus, the following amendments to the "Bylaws of the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club" are proposed:

ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES, Section 9 - Other Committees

Change Section number to 10 and retain the wording intact.

Add the following:

ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES, Section 9 - Equipment Committee

This committee shall consist of at least 3 members, at least one of which is an elected member of the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of the committee to establish policies and procedures to identify, document and retain records of the physical assets of the club and where they are located. Using these policies and procedures the committee shall develop and accurately maintain these records and have them available to the Board of Directors and the membership. The committee shall also assist the Board of Directors and other committees in the determination of the best uses of current assets, acquisition of additional assets and proper disposition of various equipment."

AARC BYLAWS CHANGE PROXY

This form is used to have your vote for changes to the Club bylaws represented by a member attending the annual business meeting in the event you are unable to attend. If you cannot attend, decide on whom or what you wish to vote and instruct the recipient of your proxy to do so.

Known by all men by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints _____ as attorney and proxy to appear and cast the votes which the undersigned, as a member of the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc., is entitled to cast at the annual meeting of said corporation, to be held at the Heartland Chapter House of the American Red Cross, 2912 South 80th Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska on January 13th, 2011, and at any adjournment thereof. The undersigned hereby instructs said attorney to vote:

1. For changes to the Club bylaws, and
2. Upon any other business which may properly be brought before the meeting of any adjournments thereof.

Member Signature: _____

Date: _____, 2012

DCEMA Social

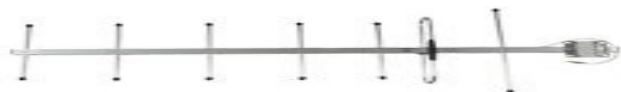
You're invited to the Douglas County Emergency Management Volunteer Social on Thursday, January 24, 2012.

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM Steak Dinner - \$7.99
Place: DJ's Dugout Door Prizes
1003 Capitol, Omaha, NE RSVP by January 20

I will be personally donating a door prize and if any of the groups want to donate a door prize for a drawing please submit the information to me. I have received no nominations for volunteer of the year or photo of the year, so get those in if you like. I really hope that the groups will support this event, it would be a nice time for our staff to visit with the most valuable asset we have. Let me know if you have any questions, comments, or want to see anything in particular that night. Make sure all attendees RSVP; I have to give them a count.

Hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and will enjoy a great New Year.

Eric Plautz, Asst. Director
Douglas County Emergency Management Agency
Civic Center - EOC Rm. 111
1819 Farnam St.
Omaha, NE 68183
Office: (402) 504-6845
dcemainfo@douglascounty-ne.gov



Ham Hum Contributors 2011

The following people (sorted by call sign) helped in the publication of the *Ham Hum* in 2011; either by writing articles and letters, or submitting photographs and want ads, or proofreading the prepublication copy—and sometimes two or more of the above:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Marvin AEØEG | Steve AGØL | Susan KØAIC |
| Pat KØCTU | Ed KØIL | Denny KØLGI |
| Claudia K1AUD | Jim K5BZH | Scott KA4ZZQ |
| Dan KB6NU | Adam KDØMMG | Bill KEØXQ |
| Steve KFØMS | Dave NØJSB | Christina NØRIS |
| Mary NØTRK | Steve NØUP | Jon N5MHI |
| Greg N7JOD | Dave WØNRW | Ralph WØSMY |
| Vern WØVMP | Craig W8CR | Rich WAØZQG |
| Bill WA9ASD | Xyl WA9ASD | John WBØCMC |
| Jeff WBØM | Duke WDØEWH | John WY2J. |

Thank-you all. You made my job easier.

Bill KCØSVZ, *Ham Hum* Editor

There Will Be Wire: How to be a Ham's Wife

Linda True NØCALL

Submitted by the wife of Bill True, WA9ASD, in response to the article There Will Be Pins: How to be a Quilter's Husband, by Patrick Cook, the husband of Valorie Cook from Grand Rapids, MI (<http://tinyurl.com/64dshed>). Both Bill's wife and daughter are quilters.

So your husband is a ham. That doesn't seem so bad, does it? It's a fairly quiet hobby, conjuring up images of our sturdy turn-of-the-century grandfathers, spending countless evenings building pieces of radios out of odd bits of wire, strange objects and vacuum tubes. You think of quiet men, hunched over softly glowing radios, tapping out messages to stations around the world long into the night. An idyllic picture, right?

You're living in a dream world, lady. They buy their radios wired now, in shiny metal boxes with built-in "auto tuners" (whatever they are). They get their power from the wall outlets around the house by converting what powers everything else in the world to 12 VDC using a silent, heavy box connected to this tiny, light radio with blinking lights and unintelligible squeals. To call this hobby wireless flies in the face of the maze of tangled wires and cables growing behind the radios and stretching to the outside world. It seems as though if all the wires were connected end to end they would reach the other station, eliminating the need for the radio. Don't ask why they can't just pick up the phone to talk to someone. We're living with the radio pioneers - people bypassing 21st century technology to get the temperature in the next county.

Ham radio generates a mysterious assortment of debris. Tiny strands of braided copper wire weave themselves into the carpet, along with tiny silver "solder birds" that hold tenaciously to the carpet that no amount of vacuuming can dislodge. Odd coils of wire catch your feet as you carefully step through the tangle, only to halt your progress just as you reach the door. The cat no longer will enter the "radio room" now that she has that odd burn mark on her nose. The mere sound of code sends her scurrying for distant shelter. And there's that strange, not unpleasant, smell that often appears - only to dissipate as quickly as it appeared.

The tangle of wires and cables snakes its way to the outside world so that the house slowly becomes covered with a web of aluminum tubing and copper wire that threatens to encompass the neighbor's houses if not frequently pruned. You've witnessed the sounds and sight of the old ham radio adage that "If your antennas didn't come down in the last storm, they aren't big enough!" and the equally disturbing saying that antennas put up in blinding snow storms actually work better than those erected on warm sunny days.

Even the car isn't immune from this forest of antennas, as it assumes the appearance of a porcupine with its ever growing assortment of slim, quivering whips sprouting from all flat surfaces. Woe be it to the wife who questions the need for a 9 foot "Texas Bug Catcher" firmly bolted to the rear bumper. As the dashboard becomes festooned with "remote heads"(?) with their attached coiled microphones poised, ready to strike. With tangles of wires snaking across the floor boards the radios squeak and burp their way to life with each turn of the key.

(There Will Be Wire continued on page 12.)



Veep Speaks

I said I'd do what? A VP is responsible for WHAT?? Oh #!\$@#!.. I forgot about that. UZQ.. Bill... I hope Santa delivered all the coal I told him you deserved... Programs. Oy Vay.. Thanks to Bill, WA9ASD, for passing on his ideas

for next year's monthly festivities to me.

For the January program, we have a video of the *Last Big Field Day*. I hear it's a pretty good show and should be interesting to see how so many stations are organized. As described by their own, "The call sign W3AO has appeared in almost every Field Day log since 1999, when the group began an unbroken run at the top of the QST Top 10 box. Members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club and Columbia (MD) Amateur Radio Association assemble an awesome operation, with phone, CW, and digital in all bands, satellite, VHF/UHF, and all the bonus points a group can rack up."

For the February program, I think we'll try a demo on how to write Android apps for a cellphone using either Windows 7, Ubuntu, or MacBook Pro.. depending on 1) Which I can get to work and 2) Which I can reliably get relocated to the club meeting. As it stands, the platform I have had success in "1" isn't the best fit for "2." Ain't that just how things go?

In March we'll have a little different program that I'm sure many of you will find entertaining, as long as we have some brave (and creative!) souls who will participate. Details to be announced at the February meeting. You really won't want to miss this!!

So..I hope to see you at the meeting.

73 -ZZQ
[/veepspeak]

Club Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2011

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 38 attendees. Introductions by name and call.

Officers and Board members present included: Mary, NØTRK; Bill, KEØXQ; Bill, WA9ASD; John, WBØCMC; Claudia, K1AUD and Marv, AEØEG.

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

Treasurer's Report - Marv, AEØEG reported that the total of all club accounts is \$22,126.66 and there were \$78.23 for Ham Hum expenses.

President's Report -Mary, NØTRK reported that the club trailer is being stored at the home of Bill, WA9ASD.

Several members of the club operated during phone Sweepstakes from the TSA station. The repaired loop antenna performed well.

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

Contest Calendar

January 2012

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| NCCC Sprint Ladder | 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 13 |
| Hunting Lions in the Air Contest | 0000Z, Jan 14 to 2400Z, Jan 15 |
| WW PMC Contest | 1200Z, Jan 14 to 1200Z, Jan 15 |
| North American QSO Party, CW | 1800Z, Jan 14 to 0600Z, Jan 15 |
| NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW | 0630Z-0830Z, Jan 15 |
| NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB | 0900Z-1100Z, Jan 15 |
| NCCC Sprint Ladder | 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 20 |
| LZ Open Contest | 0000Z-0400Z, Jan 21 |
| Hungarian DX Contest | 1200Z, Jan 21 to 1200Z, Jan 22 |
| North American QSO Party, SSB | 1800Z, Jan 21 to 0600Z, Jan 22 |
| NCCC Sprint Ladder | 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 27 |
| CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW | 2200Z, Jan 27 to 2159Z, Jan 29 |
| REF Contest, CW | 0600Z, Jan 28 to 1800Z, Jan 29 |
| BARTG RTTY Sprint | 1200Z, Jan 28 to 1200Z, Jan 29 |
| UBA DX Contest, SSB | 1300Z, Jan 28 to 1300Z, Jan 29 |

February 2012

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| NCCC Sprint Ladder | 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 3 |
| Vermont QSO Party | 0000Z, Feb 4 to 2400Z, Feb 5 |
| 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB | 0001Z, Feb 4 to 2359Z, Feb 5 |
| Black Sea Cup International | 1200Z, Feb 4 to 1159Z, Feb 5 |
| Minnesota QSO Party | 1400Z-2400Z, Feb 4 |
| AGCW Straight Key Party | 1600Z-1900Z, Feb 4 |
| Delaware QSO Party | 1700Z, Feb 4 to 0100Z, Feb 6 |
| Mexico RTTY International Contest | 1800Z, Feb 4 to 1759Z, Feb 5 |
| North American Sprint, CW | 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 5 |
| NCCC Sprint Ladder | 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 10 |

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

December Door Prizes

For the December meeting, there were both annual Grand Prizes and the regular monthly door prizes to be given away. The annual prizes consisted of purchases of products using money collected from monthly raffles over the past year.

Prize Committee Chair Rollie ABØNN first held the drawing for the monthly raffle. These included two multi-purpose "Swiss Army" tools (won by Russell NØMNW and Jim WØATU), a ratchet screwdriver with bits (to Bill KEØXQ), the Brown Bag Prize (wireless headphones for Greg WØAAI), and to Ralph WØSMY went the Mr. Reeh Door Prize—which consisted of two Kenwood TR-2600 HF transceivers: One with a note stating "needs work," and the other labeled "parts only." As Mr. Reeh is a noted world traveler who's visited many exotic places, there's no telling what sort of adventures reduced those radios to their current condition.

The Annual Grand Prizes consisted of two Wouxun KG-UVD1P dual-band HTs—one of which went to Russell NØMNW, the other to Pat KØCTU—and a Realistic HTX-100 10-meter transceiver, which went to Don WBØVGB.

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. See the Club Meeting Minutes for more information.

(**There Will Be Wire** *continued from page 3.*)

This is not the end of your problems. There are frequent expensive trips to the radio store, and even more expensive hamfests in faraway cities. There are flea markets, which are some not-so-little groups of hams who get together occasionally to swap various pieces of non-working equipment and complain about their wives and children who unreasonably take money away from radios for food and clothing. These hams may meet in church basements, legion clubs and occasionally in parking lots for these rites of redemption and trading. They may even come to your house and take over the garage for less formal swaps. Your presence in the house won't intimidate them. Beware the dreaded trip to Mecca - Dayton. A gathering so dangerous as to bankrupt even the most well-equipped ham.

Ham radio also tends to attach itself to other areas of the house, such as the computer. While hams happily keyboard their way to contacts using ever more esoteric methods beyond voice and code their wives give up email with friends and family and the children forgo homework assignments. Pity the wife who finds her microwave oven pressed into service for the VHF contest.

Ham radio also tends to take up more and more of the house. Sure, your husband might decide at some point that he has enough radios. I've never seen this myself, but it could happen. More likely, your home will become a candidate for that TV show where some poor fellow's dead body is found under a collapsed pile of old newspapers. In your case, it will be a tower of radios and old power supplies.

As far as I know, there is no twelve-step program for hams, but you may avoid codependency by following these tips:

1. Set up a space outside the living area for the ham equipment and antenna storage. We have refinished the basement, and we are moving everything down there. Other wives have contracted for pole barns, rented industrial space, or moved to another city under an assumed name.

2. Have your husband make a small business out of his hobby. Internet sales can be lucrative. They might even partially make up for the enormous sums he spends. Very important: Do not participate in the business yourself. First thing you know, you'll be maintaining complicated radios, acting as an hand maiden, and dealing with the post office. You have better things to do.

3. Don't be tempted to accompany your husband to hamfests, thinking that time together will add spark to your relationship. You won't see him all day. You'll wander around aimlessly among the booths, finding nothing remotely interesting. Sure, you could meet other lost wives, and find camaraderie in the nearest bar. Usually, though, a man in a vest with radios in every pocket will mistake you for a vendor. He will try to hustle you for free samples.

4. Don't try to distract your husband with other activities, such as yard work, barbecuing or the kids sports. Though he may have done these things in the past, that's all over now. Ham radio is his life. Accept your fate. Learn to solder and crank up the tower. Get a hobby of your own. You could join a quilting club, preferably - or learn simple home repair skills. Then build a pole barn and move into it yourself.

Finally, remember you are not alone. There are plenty of other ham-widows out there.

Linda True NØCALL

(**Meeting Minutes** *continued from page 4.*)

Pat, KØCTU and Adam, KDØMMG assisted Ralph, WØSMY with refurbishing his antenna.

Vice President's Report - The program for tonight's meeting will be the election of officers and chili and sandwiches.

Public Service: ARES/SATERN/Community Events - ARES - Steve, NØUP reported that there will be some training in January.

Community Events - Pat, KØCTU reported that the State Track Meet officials have already requested a list in January of the volunteers for this event on the weekend before Memorial Day. Please contact Pat to sign up.

Education Committee - Mary, NØTRK reported that a Technician license class is set for January 14, 21, and 28 at Methodist Hospital. It will be free of charge but pre-registration is required and we will have study books available for loan or purchase at a discount.

Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK reported that she and the volunteer, Adam, KDØMMG have not had a chance to meet yet.

Publications/Web Services - Bill, KCØSVZ reported that *Ham Hum* is ok.

Web Services - Mary, NØTRK reported we are still looking for active assistance with the club website.

Repeater Committee - John, WBØCMC reported the .94 repeater is working.

Field Day Committee - it's still over - and it is scheduled again for the 4th weekend in June.

OSL Committee - no report

Technical Committee - no report

Courtesy Committee - Bill, KEØXQ reported that there was no activity and we need a volunteer for this position for next year.

Public Awareness - Mary, NØTRK reported that the people organizing OSFEST have already been in touch with us to participate in their convention in 2012.

Old Business - Club members were reminded that at the January meeting there will be a vote on the Bylaws amendment to establish the Equipment Committee as a standing committee in the Club.

New Business - none

The meeting was suspended at this point for the election of officers.

The election was run by John, WBØCMC and the Tellers were Claudia, K1AUD and Elmer, WBØTTB.

(**Meeting Minutes** *continued on page 6.*)

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 5.)

Of the 3 nominees for Board of Directors the winners by vote were Dave, NØJSB and Adam, KDØMMG.

Scott, KA4ZZQ was the only nominee for Vice President and he was elected by acclamation.

Mary, NØTRK was the only nominee for President and was elected by acclamation.

The meeting resumed with the new officers and board members in charge.

Announcements - Bob, KØGQK announced that Bob Balters, NØUCK is still a club member and is residing at the Elkhorn Nursing and Life Care Center and would like to hear from anyone.

Rich, WAØZQG announced that there will be a mini-flea market at his house on January 14, the North Kansas City Hamfest will be January 21, and the Anita Iowa hamfest will be January 28.

Norm, WAØJYD announced that there will be a lunar eclipse tomorrow morning at about 6 AM.

John, WBØCMC announced that UHF channel 48 has an analog TV signal - it is a Christian Broadcasting station.

Bill, W5UZQ brought in a 5-element, 2-meter beam that was available.

The next license testing session will be January 31, 2012 at the Red Cross at 6:30 PM.

Mary then announced that the meeting reminder cards that were sent out offered a special prize to someone selected at random if they brought their card to the meeting. All the cards were collected and Rich, WAØZQG won an Aksarben ARC coffee mug.

Rollie, ABØNN then announced that prizes for tonight will be a magnifying glass, a screwdriver with bits, two Wouxun UVD1P dual-band HTs, and a Radio Shack HTX-100, 10 meter, 25 watt, SSB/CW transceiver. There will also be the Brown Bag Door Prize and the Mr. Reeh Door Prize. All tickets purchased throughout the year are included in the drawing.

At 8:03 PM a motion was made by John, WBØCMC, seconded by Christina, NØRIS to end the meeting. Passed unanimously.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

Make A Wish Ride

Despite the flood and the short notice for the new course, the ride had more than 270 riders who combined to raise \$7000 for the Make A Wish foundation here in Nebraska. Their "Wish Child" was able to go to a WWE match in KC and meet some of his favorite wrestlers.

Thanks to all who helped.

Jim KCØSHZ

You may be a ham radio operator if: You have looked for antennas, radios, and Morse Code in movies and television shows.

Club Calendar

- Jan 10** 7:30 PM Lincoln Amateur Radio Club Meeting. 4647 Superior St, Lincoln, NE.
- Jan 13** 7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81st and Spring St, Omaha, NE.
- Jan 14** 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Ham Radio Class, Methodist Hosp., Nebraska Room, Omaha.
- Jan 19** 7:30 PM Bellevue ARC Meeting. 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
- Jan 21** N. KC Hamfest, Hillside Christian Church, 900 NE Vivian Rd., Kansas City, MO.
- Jan 21** 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Ham Radio Class, Methodist Hosp., Nebraska Room, Omaha.
- Jan 21** 6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
- Jan 24** 6:30 PM-8:30 PM DCEMA Volunteer Social. See this issue for more info.
- Jan 26** 8:00 PM Southwest Iowa ARC Meeting. 705 N 16th, Council Bluffs, IA.
- Jan 27** 7:30 AM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
- Jan 28** 9:00 AM Ham Radio Class, Methodist Hosp., Nebraska Room, Omaha.
- Jan 31** 6:30 PM AARC Board Meeting. Village Inn, 7837 Dodge, Omaha, NE.
- Jan 31** 6:30 PM VE Testing. Red Cross Building, 81st and Spring St, Omaha, NE.
- Feb 1** 6:30 PM Net control training, location TBA.
- Feb 10** 7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81st and Spring St, Omaha, NE.
- Feb 14** 7:30 PM Lincoln Amateur Radio Club Meeting. 4647 Superior St, Lincoln, NE.
- Feb 16** 7:30 PM Bellevue ARC Meeting. 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
- Feb 18** 6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
- Feb 22** 6:30 PM Incident Command training (ICS), EOC City County building, Omaha.
- Feb 23** 8:00 PM Southwest Iowa ARC Meeting. 705 N 16th, Council Bluffs, IA.
- Feb 24** 7:30 AM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
- Feb 28** 6:30 PM AARC Board Meeting. Village Inn, 7837 Dodge, Omaha, NE.
- Mar 9** 7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81st and Spring St, Omaha, NE.
- Mar 21** 7:00 PM Spotter Training, Boys Town Music Hall, Omaha.
- Mar 24** Siren Test
- Apr 18** 6:30 PM Skywarn net training, EOC City County building, Omaha.

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

Yaesu D-Star Support

Yaesu has published a paper about digital communications in Amateur Radio. They indicate that they will not be supporting D-Star. Here's what they say about it:

GMSK modulation...Now this method is considered old fashioned and is no longer being used by LMR. Currently GMSK is still being used by D-Star.

They also say:

A new era of Digital in Amateur Radio is about to begin!...Adopt the latest digital modulation schemes for the future good of Amateur Radio.

Vertex Standard will use the most appropriate, advanced and latest digital communications methods that are gaining acceptance in modern professional communications equipment. We will not use outdated systems for manufacturing convenience.

It appears that they will be offering Amateur Radio portable and mobile transceivers in models supporting the P25 and DMR standards.

This will greatly boost the use of those formats. For the first time hams will be able to choose digital formats that have radios available from both the commercial and amateur radio markets, just as has been the case with FM for so many years.

The paper is available on the Yaesu Web site: <http://tinyurl.com/78hzgmg>

de ANØN

You Can Enjoy Contests Even If You're Not a Contester

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I often talk to guys who say that they're not testers. Some even go so far as to say that they hate contests. I'm really not a tester, either, but I do enjoy operating them from time to time. There are several ways to enjoy amateur radio contests even if you're not a "tester."

This weekend, for example, the CQ World-Wide (CQWW) SSB DX contest was being held. As usual for a Saturday morning, I was down at WA2HOM (www.wa2hom.org), our club station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum (www.aahom.org). Now, the museum is only open from 10 AM – 5 PM on Saturdays, so there's no way I'm going to score very highly in the contest, but I still decided to participate.

What I did was take advantage of the contest activity to add countries to our DXCC list. Over two hours of operation, I managed to make 63 contacts, including at least five new countries. The new countries that I added to our log included Iceland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Cayman Islands, and Madeira Island.

None of these is rare DX, but for whatever reason, we hadn't worked them before. Now, we have. In addition, some of the big testers will travel to exotic locales and operate from places that normally have no or few ham radio operators. Contests are good opportunities to get those countries in your log.

Operating in a contest is also a good test of your radio and antennas. It's true that contest signal reports are basically meaningless, but if DX stations regularly hear you on your first or second call, then chances are your antennas are working well. If they're continually asking for repeats or never hear you at all, it's a good bet that you need to do some antenna work.

Working a contest can also improve your operating skills. In a CW contest, for example, the good ops are generally operating at 25+ words per minute. That's OK, though, because it forces you to copy that fast, and because you know what the exchange format is, you pretty much know what characters to expect. Try it sometime. You'll be surprised at how fast you can copy during a contest and how much your CW speed improves.

If none of the above reasons convince you, and you're still a bit apprehensive about jumping into one of the bigger contests, let me suggest that you try one of the smaller contests. State QSO parties, for example, are a lot more laid back than say the ARRL Sweepstakes. The CW speeds are a lot lower and the phone contacts are a lot less intense. You may even learn something about a particular state's geography. You will for sure learn a lot of county names.

It's all about having fun. And you can have fun in a contest, even if you don't have the time or the equipment to be competitive.

When not worrying about the proper county code for Goochland County, Virginia, Dan blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches ham classes, and ragchews on 30m and 40m CW. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Nebraska, Inc.

11926 Arbor Street, Suite 102
Omaha, Nebraska 68144
402 333-8999
800 760-WISH (9474)
402 333-8228 fax
info@nebraska.wish.org
www.nebraska.wish.org

5800 Cornhusker Hwy, Suite 4
Lincoln, Nebraska 68507
402 475-WISH (9474)
402 475-9481 fax

8 West 56th Street, Ste B-2 North
Kearney, Nebraska 68847
308 234-6612
308 234-6613 fax

Dr. James Harper
Aksarben Radio Club c/o UNMC
982168 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-2168

Dear James:

I wish you could see the smiles we see on the faces of our wish children when they realize their fondest wish, for you have helped make those smiles possible.

Thank you so much for providing the Aksarben Radio Club support for the Wish Ride 25 - 2011. Your contribution helped make Wish Ride 25 such a great success. All funds raised by the event will help us continue to put smiles on the faces of our wish children and joy in their hearts. This year, Wish Ride 25 sponsored Colton, age 9, whose wish was to meet WWE star John Cena. Colton is an avid wrestling fan and he was thrilled to meet one of his all-time favorite celebrities. He was given an added bonus of being able to also meet two other WWE superstars (John Morrison and Kofi Kingston). Colton and his family really enjoyed attending the Monday Night Raw event and their whole trip exceeded their wildest expectations!

We could not continue to grant wishes like Colton's without the help of our wonderful supporters. When a wish is granted, it is not only the wish child who is strengthened, but often the entire family. When relatives see what a wish has done for their child, they are deeply touched; and to realize that the gift often comes from people they don't even know makes it all the more meaningful.

Thank you for sharing your blessings and realizing the difference a wish can make in the lives of these wish children and their families.

Sincerely,



Brigette Young
President

We have not provided you with any goods or services in exchange for your contribution. Please retain this letter for your records. It is necessary so that you may take the possible federal income tax deduction for this contribution as allowed by law.
Federal Tax I.D. # 47-0671096

We grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.



December 5, 2011



Nearly 40 people attended the December meeting. (Above photos by KA4ZZQ.)



Pat KØCTU was awarded the second KG-UVDIP radio. (Photo by WAØZQ.)

December Feast

Hot chili and fix-it-yourself cold sandwiches were the fare for the year-end meeting.

Mary NØTRK, Claudia K1AUD, and Steve NØUP provided crock pots of chili ranging from spicy (Mary's) to mild (Steve's). All three were reported to be excellent. I confirmed this by sampling both Mary's and Steve's submissions, but didn't get a chance to taste Claudia's. Hers was a recipe created by Dick KØKVA (SK) and was completely gone before I could try it—so it must have been good.

Bill KCØSVZ

Right: Members sample the chili and discuss the events of the past year. (Photo by KCØSVZ.)



ABØNN (left) presents the HTX-100 radio to WBØVGB. (Photo by WAØZQ.)



NØMNW (left) accepts the KG-UVDIP from ABØNN. (Photo by WAØZQ.)

