

## Flea-esta Door Prize Winners



Grand Prize Winner Mitch WBØGBI (left) being congratulated by club President Adam KDØMMG

The drawings began at 8:30 AM and continued to the Grand Prize (an MFJ-259C HF/VHF SWR Analyzer) at 12:00 PM.

Two winners were selected every half hour, except at noon when only one ticket was drawn for the Grand Prize. For the smaller prizes, the winning tickets were set aside until the Grand Prize drawing at noon, when they were added back to the hopper.

Listed by time, the lucky winners were:

**8:30 AM** *Lightning Arrestor*: Jim Shorney, NUØC. *Multi meter/Cable Ties*: Chris Lathrop, KCØVEP.

**9:00 AM** *\$25 ARRL Gift Certificate*: Bill Seier, WBØSIP. *Multi meter/Tri-Tap Adaptor*: Julie

Seier, NØCALL.

**9:30 AM** *AARC Cap*: Rich Mchaffey, KBØARZ. *MFJ 24 hour clock/Table lamp*: Leonard Parkison, KDØQFE.

**10:00 AM** *Bencher Straight Key*: Dave Rice, NØJSB. *\$25 ARRL Gift Certificate*: Jerry Gunsollty, WBØPAY.

**10:30 AM** *\$50 ARRL Gift Certificate*: Leonard Parkison, KDØQFE. *Tool Kit/Repeater Book*: Steve Schmitz, NØUP.

**11:00 AM** *Crimper Tool*: Teve Lindblum, NØORU. *Hand Cart*: Rick Gibilisco, NEØJ.

**12:00 PM** GRAND PRIZE – *MFJ-259C Antenna Analyzer*: Mitch Saure, WBØGBI.

**Congratulations, everyone!**

## Thanks, Flea-esta Volunteers!

The Club wishes to thank the following people for donating their time to make the 2014 Flea-esta possible: Dave Rice, NØJSB (Admission), Barb Westcott, KGØHLB (Admission), Rollie Miller, ABØNN (Kitchen), Russ Rosenquist, NØMNW (Kitchen), Mary Joseph, NØTRK (Kitchen & Setup), Tom Paskach, NØSTN (Raffle & Setup), Rick Gibilisco, NEØJ (Raffle), Bill True, WA9ASD (Set up, Take Down, & Equipment sales table), Adam Kavan, KDØMMG (General Support & Setup), Pat Joseph, KØCTU (Set up, take down, & general support), Mitch Saure, WBØGBI (General Support), Chris Rice (Set up, take down, & General Support), Kevin Hill, KAØVNY (Parking Lot), and Steve Schmitz, NØUP (Set up).

[The Ham Hum editor wishes to thank Chris Rice for providing him with a list of the winners and volunteers.]

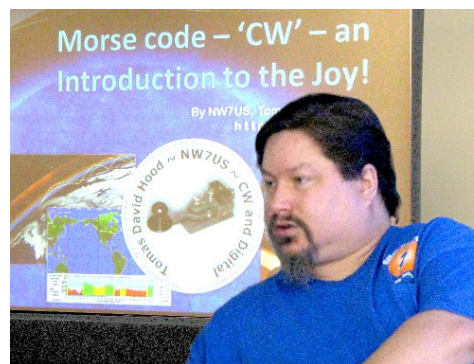
AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Ham Hum

Volume LXIV, Issue 9

September 2014

## Why Morse Code?



Tomas NW7US

The speaker for the August meeting was Tomas Hood, NW7US, who talked about Morse code. He began with a brief history of Morse code; why it was needed and its development. He stated that he wasn't going into the controversy of who invented the code, but did point out that Samuel Morse was the first one to successfully commercialize it—hence its name.

Tomas stated that, unlike his previous talks on communications technology, he wasn't going to cover the mechanics of Morse code, but rather why code was becoming increasingly popular with hams in recent years—even though the FCC had dropped the licensing requirement in 2007.

One reason is the challenge and pleasure of learning a new skill. Tomas likened it to the popularity of sailing—a technology and skill set that hasn't been needed since the invention of powered boats. He also pointed out that there are practical reasons, such as range and cost. That is, since code has a very narrow bandwidth (approx. 300 Hz), it is more resistant to QRM than AM or SSB, for example.

(Why Morse Code? continued on page 14.)

## INSIDE! FABULOUS FLEA FOTOS!

(Try saying that five times real fast.)



### September Meeting: DMR and MOTOTRBO



For the September meeting, Frank Vondra, WBØQQK, will talk about Digital Mobile Radio and Motorola's MOTOTRBO digital communications system. Be sure to attend and learn about this exciting new technology.

Friday, September 12<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	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	402-598-1521	akavan@gmail.com
Vice President	Mitch Saure	WBØGBI	402-455-6205	skyking195@aol.com
2014 Secretary	Bill True	WA9ASD	402-426-2813	williamtrue@aol.com
2014 Treasurer	Dave Rice	NØJSB	402-571-8915	davegr@netzero.net
2014-2016 Director	Russ Rosenquist	NØMNW		n0mnw@yahoo.com
2014-2016 Director	Barb Westcott	KCØHLB	402-510-0308	barbwestcott@cox.net
Immediate Past President	Tomas Hood	NW7US	402-915-1771	nw7us@nw7us.us

### Club Committees

Courtesy Committee	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	402-690-7965	ke0xq@cox.net
Education	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	402-598-1521	akavan@gmail.com
Field Day	Tomas Hood	NW7US	402-915-1771	nw7us@nw7us.us
Flea-esta	Chris Rice		402-571-8915	davegr@netzero.net
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7774	wa0zqg@hotmail.com
Prizes	Rollie Miller	ABØNN	402-333-1606	ab0nn@arrl.net
Public Service/Emergency	Jim Westcott	KAØKCV	402-510-0308	ka0kcv@cox.net
Publications	Bill Wilkinson	KCØSVZ	402-397-8803	kc0svz@gmail.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	319-393-8022	k0das@arrl.org
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	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	402-580-5515	ka0boj@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	402-690-7965	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/>

## Nebraskan Scores Big in the Wisconsin QSO Party

Pat KØCTU earned a first-place certificate for accumulating 688.5 points in last March's Wisconsin QSO Party. That's for 27 contacts and 17 counties. They had 181 logs submitted from outside Wisconsin—Pat's was the only one from Nebraska.

Why the one-half point? According to Pat, stations running less than a 150 watts receive a point multiplier: 2X for QRP (5W or less), 1.5X for low power (5-150W). Pat was in the 1.5X category.

*de KØCTU*

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*You may be a ham radio operator if...your neighbors wonder if you are a narc, a spy, or a federal agent.*

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### Want to Use KØUSA 146.940 for Community Service Events?

The KØUSA repeater is an open system and is available for any licensed ham radio operator to use. We welcome other clubs and organizations to use it for providing communications support for nonprofit activities. To avoid scheduling conflicts, the Club asks that you obtain permission from the AARC Repeater Committee *at least 72 hours* in advance. To submit your request, please click the *KØUSA Use Request Form* link on the AARC web site: <http://tinyurl.com/msodyvh>

## AARC Transmitter Hunt

The next rabbit hunt is scheduled for Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3PM. Final details will be worked out at the club meeting the Friday before. Also look for announcements on the AARC Internet sites (page 2). Everyone is invited.

### Bill KEØXQ to Chair the Courtesy Committee

Welcome back! We tease you a lot cause we got you on the spot, welcome back.

## NIST Technology

I had occasion to talk with one of the engineers at WWV yesterday about a parts order and later discovered that he was one of the authors of the definitive description of the NIST time and frequency installations in Colorado and Hawaii. This may be an interesting document for some of our members to read. It's a 9 MB PDF file that can be accessed at:

<http://tf.nist.gov/general/pdf/1969.pdf>

It covers the history and evolution of the stations—including many technical details—as well as procedures and the composition of the time signals.

It's way more than a crystal oscillator and a guy with a microphone.

*Bill WA9ASD*

(Why Morse Code? continued from page 1.)

This allows far greater range with a lot less power. Using slides and videos, he showed several examples where a QRP rig running CW could reach most of the world; yet if the rig used other modulation techniques under the same conditions, it would barely get out of the country. Thus, the low cost: A CW transceiver requires far less components than (for example) an SSB rig; it is cheaper and so preferred by many QRP operators.

Tomas devoted the latter portion of his talk on how to get on the air with Morse code. This included both learning code and using automated means.

Though he is skilled with Morse code, Tomas isn't against using computer programs to communicate with other people. He stated that it's a good way to get started and that it may whet your appetite for learning code. He described some useful programs such as Ham Radio Deluxe, FLDigi, and CW Skimmer. His point was that you don't need to know code to enjoy it.

However, if you do want to learn it, he gave some tips on making the process easier: Don't start at a low speed—it makes it harder to increase your speed at a later date. Instead, start by learning at a faster rate—using a technique such as the Koch method, for example. Consider Morse code as a language and learn to think in it. You'll be slowed down if you are mentally translating the dihs and dahs into individual characters. Then practice—with a friend, if possible.

Tomas concluded the program by reiterating that his intent was not to go into how Morse code worked, but to generate enthusiasm for that branch of the hobby. For that reason, he stated that he was willing to set up an on-the-air special interest group to discuss and practice code—either HF or VHF. If this is something you'd like to do, you can contact him at one of the links below. (The two URLs also provide links to the software he'd mentioned in the meeting.)

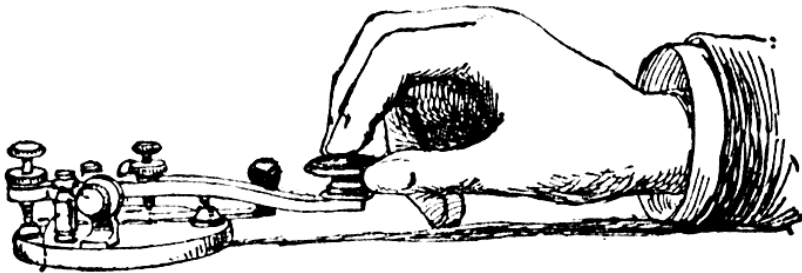
Email: [nw7us@nw7us.us](mailto:nw7us@nw7us.us)

NW7US home page: <http://nw7us.us/>

Morse code page: <http://cw.hfradio.org/>

After his excellent presentation, there was a short question-and-answer period, followed by a "show-and-tell" session of various members' CW keys and related equipment. A video showing both is available at the AARC web site (courtesy of Russ NØMNW). Go to <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/> and click on *Videos* in the left column.

*Bill KCØSVZ*



## Veep Speaks

At our September meeting Frank Vondra, WBØQQK, a member of our club, will do a presentation on Motorola's MOTOTRBO, a new method of VHF communication which is starting to be used across the country. Be sure to attend to see this interesting new method.

If you have missed an Aksarben club meeting, or if you want to see a program again, you can see the last several programs on our website. These have been recorded by one of our members and board member, Russ Rosenquist, NØMNW. Our thanks go to him for his efforts.

*Mitch WBØGBI, Vice President AARC*



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## Silent Keys

### Warren Flearl, NØWF

Warren Joseph Flearl, NØWF, passed away in his home on August 16, 2014. He was 54. He was a CB radio operator in the mid-70s before getting his amateur license and joining AARC. Friends with several club members, Warren liked to attend local flea markets and was also a member of the Omaha Scooter Club.

### Richard Connell, WØOJU

Former AkSarBen member Richard P. Connell, WØOJU, passed away on July 4, 2014 at age 89. A World War II veteran, Dick had enlisted in the Army in 1943, landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day and saw action at the Battle of the Bulge. He attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4 before retiring after nearly 44 years of service.

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## Club Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2014

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by the President Adam, KDØMMG by saying the Pledge of Allegiance followed by introductions by name and call. There were 28 attendees.

Officers and Board members present included: Adam, KDØMMG; Mitch, WBØGBI; Dave, NØJSB; Bill, WA9ASD; Barb, KCØHLB, Russ, NØMNW and Tomas, NW7US.

Secretary's Report - Bill, WA9ASD - A motion was made by Mitch, WBØGBI, seconded by Jim, KDØHQ to accept the minutes of the previous club meeting as published in *Ham Hum*. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Dave, NØJSB - In the month of June there were deposits of \$22 for refreshments and \$20 from the sale of a cable and \$295 at North Bend from the sale of equipment the club purchased from the estate of WBØFZZ. Payments consisted of \$18.47 for refreshments, \$115.94 for Field Day supplies, \$56.18 for name tags, \$138.04 for Ham Hum supplies and a \$3 bank fee. This leaves the balance of all the club accounts at \$21,656.94.

President's Report - Adam, KDØMMG - Most of you missed a fun time at the transmitter hunt last month. We are looking for some committee chairpersons; including for *Ham Hum*.

Vice President's Report - Mitch, WBØGBI - Tonight's program will be presented by Tomas, NW7US on CW and next month's program will be by Frank Vondra, WBØQQK on MOTOTRBO Digital Communications.

### Public Service

- ARES - Steve, NØUP - nothing to report
- SATERN - Jim, KCØSHZ - no report
- OMMRS - Mary, NØTRK - On September 13 there will be a training session in the morning and repeated in the afternoon on the 800 MHz radios and message handling.
- Community Events - Pat, KØCTU - On October 11 the Market-To-Market Relay will be held. This is a big event using lots of volunteers.
- On October 12 the Crop Walk will be held.

Education Committee - Adam, KDØMMG - There will be a class starting on August 28 at the new Salvation Army facility. We need volunteers and students.

Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK - If you know anyone who is not a member urge them to join. Why not pay you dues early?

### Publications/Web Services

- *Ham Hum* - Bill, KCØSVZ - It's been published.
- Web Site - Mary, NØTRK - It's there and the Flea-Esta table reservation form is there also.

(Club Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

## Club Calendar

Sep 10	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
Sep 11	6:30 PM Technician License Class. Salvation Army, 10629 Burt Cir., Omaha, NE.
Sep 12	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 <sup>st</sup> & Spring St., Omaha, NE.
Sep 13	9:00 AM Omaha Mini Maker Faire. Details Below.
Sep 13	9:00 AM OMMRS training. Methodist Hospital, Nebraska Room, Omaha, NE.
Sep 13	11:00 AM HBQRP, Bredeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.
Sep 14	3:00 PM AARC Transmitter Hunt. More info in this issue.
Sep 17	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Sep 18	6:30 PM Technician License Class. Salvation Army, 10629 Burt Cir., Omaha, NE.
Sep 18	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St., Bellevue, NE.
Sep 20	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 <sup>th</sup> & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Sep 23	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge St., Omaha, NE.
Sep 25	6:30 PM Technician License Class. Salvation Army, 10629 Burt Cir., Omaha, NE.
Sep 25	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Sep 25	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16 <sup>th</sup> , Council Bluffs, IA.
Sep 27	8:00 AM 3900 Club Hamboree. Firefighters Hall, 2108 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
Sep 30	6:30 PM AARC VE Session, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St., Omaha NE.
Oct 2	<i>Ham Hum</i> article submission deadline.
Oct 8	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
Oct 10	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 <sup>st</sup> & Spring St., Omaha, NE.
Oct 11	8:00 AM Nebraska Rare County Activation ( <a href="http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm">http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm</a> )
Oct 11	11:00 AM HBQRP, Bredeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.
Oct 15	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Oct 16	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
Oct 18	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 <sup>th</sup> & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Oct 23	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Oct 23	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16 <sup>th</sup> , Council Bluffs, IA.
Oct 28	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge St, Omaha, NE.
Nov 8	1:00 PM BARC VE Session, 11111 S. 84 <sup>th</sup> St., Papillion, NE.

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

## Omaha Mini Maker Faire

Be sure to check out the Mini Maker Faire at the Omaha Children's Museum, 500 S 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE. Time 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on September 13, 2014. Among other exhibits, Pat KØCTU will be demonstrating his bicycle-powered generator (*Ham Hum*, April 2012, pg.1). See the Maker web page at <http://www.omahamakerfaire.com/> for details.

## BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The next AARC Board Meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2014, 6:30 PM at the Village Inn on 78th and Dodge Streets. Unless noted otherwise, Board meetings take place at that time and location on the fourth Tuesday of the month. For any changes to this schedule, check for an announcement at the next club meeting, or on the AARC web page at <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>.

## Area Nets

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

7:00 PM 147.360 QCWA Net, Chapter 210 (seasonal, October through March).  
8:00 PM 50.200 6m SSB Net.  
9:00 PM 145.310 Washington Co. ARES Washington Co, NE.

### Wednesday

7:00 PM 146.670 Dodge Co. ARES Dodge Co, NE.  
7:30 PM 7.122 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.  
8:00 PM 3.564 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.  
8:00 PM 145.310 Saunders Co. ARES Saunders Co, NE.  
8:30 PM 7.122 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.  
9:00 PM 3.580.5 PSK Four State QRP Comfortable Net.  
9:00 PM 146.820 Pottawattamie County ARES Council Bluffs, IA.

### Thursday

8:30 AM 7.122 CW Four State QRP 40M Morning Net.  
7:30 PM 145.310- Lincoln/Omaha SATERN Net. Ashland, NE.  
8:00 PM 28.350 10-Meter Net.  
8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.  
8:00 PM 146.360 Heartland DX Association.  
9:00 PM 28.305 10-Meter Net.

### Saturday

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

### 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 Co. ARES net, KØUSA repeater.

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

## AARC Equipment Loaner Program

Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club members who are in good standing and possessing an active FCC issued US Amateur Radio License may borrow one of two Icom HTs. Each radio is a basic two meter transceiver with an NiMH battery and charger. It is perfect for when you need to borrow a rig to help with that community service event, or if you are itching to get on the air as you shop for your new radio.

Other equipment includes an ARRL *Introduction to Morse Code* CD set and (in the near future) an MFJ-259B antenna analyzer. A policy for the antenna analyzer is still being set—see the AARC web page at <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/main/> for its status.

You can check out a radio for one month at any Club meeting and return it at the next. Alternately, you can contact the equipment committee at [equipment-committee@aksarbenarc.org](mailto:equipment-committee@aksarbenarc.org). For more details, see the AARC web page listed above.  
*de AARC Equipment Committee*

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

Repeater Committee - John, WBØCMC - It's working. There has been noise reported on the repeater. Some of this is due to it being Tropo season. John described what Tropo is and what it can do for long range contacts. The club accepts donations for any area repeater and forwards the money to the appropriate owner.

Field Day - Adam. KDØMMG - The club scored 4092 points with 2548 contacts. We have received a number of suggestions for Field day and everyone is encouraged to submit theirs.

QSL and Technical Committee - Eddy, KØIL - no report

Courtesy Committee - WØOJU passed away.

Trailer/Equipment Committee - Mary, NØTRK - Some minor trailer work is being done. The club has a 15 meter beam available..

Flea-Esta - Chris Rice - September 6 is fast approaching and we still need more volunteers. D & L Antennas and the Makers Club will have tables along with one for our club equipment. The hours are 8 am to noon and tables are going fast. Get yours reserved while you can. Admission is \$4 and tables are \$8. Good food will be available.

Old Business - There are name tags available for those who filled-out the club survey.

New Business - none

Announcements - The Transmitter Hunt will be Sunday, August 10 at 3 PM.

- John, WBØCMC reported that on his last trip to Haiti he had a chance to take a tour of the Arecibo Radio Telescope. The main feature of that facility is a dish capable of focusing signals on the receiving antenna at any frequency from 5 MHz to 10 GHz. He said it was an impressive facility.
- There is an extensive display of a number of club member's telegraph keys.
- There is a limited assortment of excess club equipment on the table available for purchase.
- Rollie, ABØNN was not available for the door prize drawing. The Mr. Reeh Door Prize and the Brown Bag Door Prize will be carefully preserved until next month's meeting. All tickets purchased are held and used in the drawing at the December meeting for the Grand Door Prize.
- Coffee and cookies are available in the kitchen thanks to Don, WBØVGB. Please help yourself and donate to offset the cost of this.

At 7:28 PM a motion was made by John, WBØCMC, seconded by Mary, NØTRK to end the meeting. So moved.

*Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC*



## August Door Prizes

Alas, no door prizes were awarded at the August meeting as Bestower-of-Gifts Rollie ABØNN, was unable to attend. Woe.

Note that the proceeds for each month's tickets go for buying next month's prizes. Also, all tickets are kept and included in the Grand Prize drawing in December.

Bill KCØSVZ

## Saturday Night Coffee

At one down from last month, just five people showed up for the August get-together: Darrell ADØEF, Pat KØCTU, Bill KCØSVZ, Cristina NØRIS, and Mary NØTRK. One assumes that the dwindling numbers are due to nice weather and summer activities.

Topics included operating QRP CW, stepper motors, QSO parties, geocaching, cheap phone service, and the purpose of the Announcements section of the AARC business meeting—if you have something of interest, or need help with something, that's the time to let people know. We discussed the upcoming Omaha Mini Maker Faire on September 13<sup>th</sup>: Pat will be there with his bicycle-powered generator—see "The Kilo-Cycle" in the April, 2012 *Ham Hum*. Also interesting were the events at the Huntsville Hamfest (<http://www.hamfest.org/>) that took place earlier that day and on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Once again, Christina had served as a moderator for the online portion of the annual event and had some interesting stories to tell.

The AARC Coffee get-together is held at Perkins restaurant at the corner of 108th and L Streets in Omaha on the third Saturday of the month, starting at 6 PM. Everyone is invited.

Bill KCØSVZ

## Correction

An error crept into the list of attendees in the "Saturday Night Coffee" column in last month's *Ham Hum* (page 10). The call sign for Darrell Fulmer was shown as KDØEF. It should have been ADØEF. Our apologies to Darrell.

Note: If you see an error in the *Ham Hum*, please let us know. Thanks.

Bill KCØSVZ

## Want Ad

**Job Opening: Ham Hum Editor** Position available in March, 2015. This is an unparalleled opportunity for you to document and influence the course of history—or at least that bit of history related to the goings-on at AARC. The club will supply you with the materials that you need to print and distribute the *Ham Hum*. You just provide the creative drive and hard-hitting investigative reporting skills. If interested (*and how can you not be?*) contact Bill KCØSVZ or any club officer at the next meeting.

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*You may be a ham radio operator if...you know the latitude, longitude, and elevation of your home QTH.*

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## Contest Calendar

### September 2014

CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 10 and 0300Z-0400Z, Sep 11
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 10
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Sep 12
NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 12
Kulikovo Polye Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 13
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 13 to 2359Z, Sep 14
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 13
SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest	1000Z, Sep 13 to 1000Z, Sep 14
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Sep 13 to 2400Z, Sep 14
Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 13 to 0200Z, Sep 14
ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 13 to 0300Z, Sep 15
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 14
WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone	1000Z-1400Z, Sep 14
Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	1300Z-1900Z, Sep 14
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 17 and 0300Z-0400Z, Sep 18
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 18
NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 19
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 20 to 2400 local, Sep 21
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 20 to 1200Z, Sep 21
SRT HF Contest SSB	1300Z, Sep 20 to 1300Z, Sep 21
QRP Afield	1500Z, Sep 20 to 0300Z, Sep 21
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 20 to 2400Z, Sep 21
BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2100Z, Sep 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 22
144 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 22
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 24 and 0300Z-0400Z, Sep 25
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 25
NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 26
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 27 to 2400Z, Sep 28
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z (144) & 1700Z-1800Z (432), Sep 27
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 27 to 0200Z, Sep 28 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 28
222 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 30

### October 2014

SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Oct 2
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-0959Z, Oct 3
YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	1400Z, Oct 3 to 0200Z, Oct 5
15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest	0000Z, Oct 4 to 2359Z, Oct 5
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 4
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 4 to 0800Z, Oct 5
Russian WW Digital Contest	1200Z, Oct 4 to 1159Z, Oct 5
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 4
New Jersey QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 4 to 0359Z, Oct 5 and 1400Z-2000Z, Oct 5
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 4 to 2159Z, Oct 5

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

(July Rabbit Hunt continued from page 7.)

Dave heard us comparing notes on 146.94 and, at 16:17, gave us the first hint: "Go north of 90<sup>th</sup> and Dodge." We (BHP, KCV, and MNW) made a couple of more test stops; one being in a church parking lot where an Omaha Police squad car was parked at the far end—they must have wondered about us suddenly jumping out of our car, pointing antennas in all directions, then jumping back in and driving off.

At 16:30, Dave transmitted his second hint: "Go west from 90<sup>th</sup> and Blondo." Using Justin's map, we decided to check out the nearby OPPD Arboretum at about 106<sup>th</sup> and Blondo. We arrived at 16:38, saw him there, so decided to search the area on foot. The signal was quite strong and Dave suggested tuning our receivers to the third harmonic at 439.425 MHz and working from it.

Justin found it first at 16:44 and pointed it out to Russ. Mitch arrived shortly afterwards and was the third to find it. Bill, who'd wondered off in the wrong direction, eventually stumbled over it—once again in last place.

As Justin was the first to find the rabbit, he will be the one to hide it next month—which will likely be on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

We got lost a couple of times, it sporadically rained, and the afternoon was hot and humid, but a fun time was had by all.

*Dave NØJSB & Bill KCØSVZ*

## QCWA 2014 RARE COUNTY SPECIAL EVENT

Chapter 25 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association is pleased to announce the 2014 Nebraska Rare County Activation special event. It is designed to encourage amateurs both in and out of Nebraska to activate those Nebraska counties which are considered difficult to contact. The event is aimed at making the rarer Nebraskan counties available to county hunters: for example, those earning county hunter awards and/or interested in earning a Worked All Nebraska County award.

The activity will take place entirely on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. It will start at 8:00 AM CDT (1300Z) and end at 5:00 PM CDT (2200Z). The special event station, NEØQP, will be operating from some of the counties during this period.

A preliminary list of rare counties includes the following: Boyd, Knox, Garfield, Johnson, Loup, Rock, and Sioux. also, there will be an effort to activate Washington, Burt, Cumming, Johnson, Pawnee, Boone, Holt, Perkins, Chase, and Grant counties.

The general frequencies to be used in the special event are located near the County Hunter's Net frequencies:

CW: 7,056.5 14,056.5 21,056.5 kHz

SSB: 7,188 14,336 21,336 kHz

Possibly not all rare counties will be activated, and some at different times. Therefore, about two weeks prior to the activity we will post a Schedule of Operations with more details (call, county, time, band). Check the QRZ website (<http://qrz.com/>) for NEØQP (the QCWA Ch. 25 call sign).

Interested individuals and clubs are encouraged to contact Reynolds Davis, KØGND (email: ReynoldsDI@aol.com) so that we may post tentative operations schedules. Stations needing a specific county are also encouraged to contact KØGND; we will endeavor to activate that county if it is not already scheduled.

*de <http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm>*

## July Rabbit Hunt

*Dave Rice NØJSB and Bill Wilkinson KCØSVZ*



*Rabbit hunters and the rabbit at the OPPD Arboretum. Left-to-right: KEØBHP (1st to find it), NØMNV (2nd), WBØGBI (3rd), and NØJSB, who hid the rabbit.*

Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> started out rainy but, as NØJSB was heard to say on 146.94, the rabbit isn't bothered by the weather—it's got fur. Luckily for the humans, the skies mostly cleared up by 3:00 PM, so the hunt was on.

Present at the parking lot in Memorial Park were Bill KCØSVZ, Justin KEØBHP, Russ NØMNV, and Mitch WBØGBI. This was the first time for Mitch, everybody else were seasoned hunters with exactly one previous hunt under their belts—last month, to be exact. We figured that it was going to be a long day.

Last month, Dave NØJSB was the first to find the bunny, so it was his job to hide it this time. At 15:00 CDT he turned on the transmitter and it began sending its characteristic tones on 146.475 at one watt from some unknown location. Bill heard it first, followed by Justin. We couldn't agree on the exact direction, but compromised on a northwest bearing. Bill and Justin left with Russ in his car, while Mitch and his wife went in their vehicle.

Bill, Justin, and Russ made several stops to take measurements—sometimes the signal was stronger, other times inaudible. This sometimes required doubling back to get another reading.

Justin had mapping and triangulating software on his notepad, so we were generally heading in the right direction, but not very quickly. (Note that the tones were on for only a minute and off for four, which slowed things down a bit.) Mitch was also having problems finding it.

(July Rabbit Hunt continued on page 10.)





AARC Flea-esta, 2014