

## Saturday Night Coffee

AARC members met at the Perkins restaurant near 108<sup>th</sup> and L Streets on April 16<sup>th</sup> for dinner and talk. It was a quiet evening, so we were able to get our usual spot in the meeting room in the northwest area.

Present were Claudia K1AUD, Arnie KAØNCR, Dick KBØKJV, Bill KCØSVZ, and Christina NØRIS. Pat KØCTU and Mary NØTRK were missing, so NØRIS contacted them on 2 meters and found out that they were on their way. The conversation attracted the attention of the manager, who was curious about two-way radio. This resulted in a friendly discussion with him about ham radio, what it is, and how easy it is to get licensed.

Also discussed was the Omaha Maker Group; an organization for people who like to build high-tech gizmos such as Geiger counters, radio-controlled helicopters, robot arms, a heater for bending acrylic, and others. The next regular meeting is on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at 4388 Nicholas Street, Omaha (<http://omahamakergroup.org/>).

KAØNCR used his laptop computer to demonstrate the WebSDR site (<http://websdr.org/>). This site has a collection of links to locations around the world where hobbyists have set up software-defined radio (SDR) receivers that let you control them. Depending upon the site, you can select bands, frequency, and type of modulation (AM, SSB, CW). You can also select upper or lower sideband and the bandwidth. Multiple users can be on at the same time without interfering with each other. If you're logged in (which isn't necessary), you can also see the call signs of the other users. Arnold pointed out that since the sites are located in various parts of the country and world, it's possible to tune in your own transmitter and hear what it actually sounds like from their location—Georgia or Austria, for example.

Any computer with a standard web browser (Firefox or Internet explorer, for example), a high-speed Internet connection, plus Java and Javascript should have no problem accessing WebSDR. Note that some versions of Ubuntu Linux may not work if they're using OpenJDK, however, that can be fixed by installing the Sun Java 6 software from the Ubuntu Software Center.

*(Note: The AARC Coffee event takes place on the third Saturday of the month at 6:00 PM at Perkins Restaurant, 108th & L Streets, Omaha, NE. Feel free to stop by.)*

*Bill KCØSVZ*

## Sporadic-E Season

With May 1<sup>st</sup> being the traditional beginning of the Sporadic-E season, some spots are starting to show up on 6 meters. A good place to keep track of the latest conditions on 6 meters (and other bands) is the VHFDX site put together by EA6VQ at:

<http://www.vhfdx.info/spots/map.php?Lan=E&Frec=50&ML=M&Map=NA&DXC=N&HF=N&GL=N>

(For less typing: <http://tinyurl.com/654wmab>)

I also recommend that you check out the VHF/UHF site put together by KC9BQA at: <http://kc9bqa.com/>. Also take special note of his VHF Contesting School at: <http://kc9bqa.com/?p=4676>.

*Forwarded by Rich WAØZQG from Dave WØNRW*

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Ham Hum

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May 2011

*(Go Green. Switch to electronic delivery of the Ham Hum.)*

## Maritime Coastal Stations

For the April meeting, Vern Virka, WØVMP gave a presentation on the history of Morse code and the Maritime Radio Historical Society.

The MRHS (<http://www.radiomarine.org/>) is located at Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) and is part of the National Park Service. Its purpose is to preserve maritime radio history and restore the equipment associated with it. Part of this is the MRHS KPH project. That is, restoring the former RCA maritime station at Point Reyes, California and returning it to service. Relicensed as KSM, it provides ship-to-shore communications in both CW and RTTY on the medium- and high-frequency maritime bands. It's also licensed as K6KPH to give hams the opportunity to brush up on commercial CW practices (among other things).



The project houses their receivers on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard at Point Reyes, while transmitters are located near Bolinas about 20 miles south. Vern showed slides of them and discussed their history and interesting features about them. For example: The transmitters have been there since the fifties and most are restored now. One of their Beverage receive antennas measured 18 miles. Mercury vapor tubes at the transmitter site make quite a light show when someone is sending CW.

Commercial Maritime Morse code stations eventually were phased out by newer technology--paper tape, RTTY, and satellite. However, Vern pointed out that CW isn't entirely dead and is still important. Hams also keep it alive, CW competitions are popular in Europe, and some countries like South Korea still use it extensively. MARS dropped code for awhile, but brought it back after Hurricane Katrina. Plus, MRHS helps preserve code by hosting the "Night of Nights" event every July 12th—honoring the date the Globe Wireless station, KFS, made the last commercial Morse code transmission in 1999.

*(Among other things, Vern teaches communications-related courses at Midland University in Fremont and was assistant professor of communication at Dana College in Blair. Besides holding an Amateur Extra license, he also has the following tickets: Second Class Radiotelephone Operator, General Radiotelephone Operator, and General Mobile Radio license. He's also an accomplished ventriloquist and is a member of the North American Association of Ventriloquists and International Ventriloquists Association.)*

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	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	402-690-7965	ke0xq@cox.net
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2011-2012 Board (Treasurer)	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	AEØEG@arrl.net
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### Standing Committee Chairs

Courtesy Committee	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	402-690-7965	ke0xq@cox.net
Education	<i>(open)</i>			
Field Day	Claudia Peterson	K1AUD	402-593-1950	kc0sqx@arrl.net
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Club Callsign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net
Member	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net

### Other Contacts

ARRL Midwest Director	Clifford Ahrens	KØCA	573-221-8618	k0ca@arrl.org
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EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		
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Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		ke0xq@cox.net
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph	KØCTU	402-492-9156	ppjoseph@cox.net

### May Meeting

The next meeting of the AARC will be on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. The location is the Heartland Chapter House of the American Red Cross at 81<sup>st</sup> and Spring (near 81<sup>st</sup> and Center). The topic is "What Got You Interested in Ham Radio?"

### AARC on the Web

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

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=325594348836>

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

## Field Day is a-Comin'

The AARC Field Day will be on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at Freedom Park.

One of the most fun parts of field day is OPERATING... getting on the air... and to do that we need stations! We are shooting for at least a 5-Alpha designation, which means we need five stations that are able to operate at the same time—but we will take more. The Field Day rules limit us to 20 stations.

We also need shack captains to head up running a station. What does a Shack Captain do? They take care of all the operating details for a particular band(s) and mode(s) of operation.

Any band except the 60, 30, 17 and 12 meter bands may be worked. We would like to work the 80, 40, 20, 15 and 2 meter bands and maybe more.

Operating Modes are Phone (Voice), CW, and Digital (Packet, PSK31...). Each mode on a band is considered a separate band, so we may operate a 20 Meter SSB shack, a 20 Meter CW Shack and a 20 Meter PSK31 shack.

We also need someone to head up the Public Information Shack and possibly a GOTA station.

The Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Field Day Committee has put together the following equipment list to help potential shack captains. If you cannot provide all of the items, that is okay. The Field Day Committee has access to equipment that can be borrowed for the event, so just let them know what you lack and they will try to assist.

#### Shack Equipment List:

- Amateur radio transceiver that operates on the band/mode.
- Antenna for selected frequency band.
- Computer for logging (the Club has logging software).
- Operating shelter (something to keep the sun or rain off)
  - Don't forget table, chairs, extension cord, lamp etc.
- Any special equipment for the mode you'd like to operate (headphones, computer, code key, etc).

Don't feel like you have enough experience to be a shack captain alone? No problem. The Field Day Committee can pair you with a more experienced operator to help you with the task. There are also a lot of other things to do at Field Day. Each shack needs operators and loggers. People are needed to staff the information booth and monitor 2 meters for Talk In. People are also needed to operate the GOTA (Get On The Air) shack so that visitors can have a hand at trying to make a few contacts. There are extra points for originating an NTS (National Traffic System) formatted message to the section manager. Extra points for sending 10 NTS formatted messages from the site during Field Day. Extra points for Satellite Contacts and for conducting an amateur radio related educational activity. Coming out to help with these items is a great help.

For more information, contact the Field Day Committee at [fieldday@aksarbenarc.org](mailto:fieldday@aksarbenarc.org) or call Claudia K1AUD.

To volunteer, fill out the field day form on the [aksarbenarc.org](http://www.aksarbenarc.org) website or contact the Field Day Committee at [fieldday@aksarbenarc.org](mailto:fieldday@aksarbenarc.org).

Mary NØTRK and Claudia K1AUD

# FEBRUARY TRIP TO HAITI

John Gebhur, WBØCMC

(This issue presents the first of a two-part article on John's recent trip to Gonaives, Haiti, where he did volunteer work on the TV and FM transmitters belonging to Pastor Revenel Benoit's Lutheran Church.)

This was a trouble-shooting trip. In December I had found a problem with the antenna and/ or diplexer and had neither the time nor resources to do anything about it.

On my return to Omaha I called a friend of mine who had his own tower maintenance company, Omaha Telecom. I asked him if he would like a couple of weeks in Haiti to inspect a TV antenna and tower for a mission. He said "yes" and I booked the flight. He also brought along some tower climbing gear that could be left for future work. He is a very resourceful guy, just what is needed down there. He did a complete inspection and found several things needing mostly minor repairs. There was a cracked weld on one of the batwing elements. He took it down and we took it into town for straightening and rewelding. One of the lines was damaged, probably when it was installed, so we changed it out. I did have enough spare line for the replacement.



Repaired batwing at welders.

We took the diplexer down, disassembled it, and found it was in excellent condition. I did find two screws barely tight which could have caused a problem down the road. It was reassembled and reinstalled.

When we replaced the one intertie line, I found it had considerable oxidization on the connections and a couple of spots along its length. That means we will have to replace all 24 of the interties at a later date when I can get the materials and ship them in. That will be rather expensive. I'm waiting on some cable samples and price information at the moment.

I did have ample time to play with the new transmitter and get the feel of it. I got the bad exciter fixed so we now have two again (redundancy is good). I also found and corrected a few other minor problems with the video and audio, changed the air filters on the new transmitter and caught two rats in the traps. I am now confident that all on the site is in good working order and when we get the antenna repaired we can put the new transmitter up to full power.

The other problem that Revenel's people will have to find and fix is a serious fuel leak somewhere on the generator tank. I think we found where the leak was, but it will have to be confirmed and fixed. We probably lost over 50 gallons down the side of the mountain before we discovered it.

I found a minor problem with the FM transmitter and got it fixed. It's now doing a much better job; at least from an engineering standpoint.

**(TO BE CONTINUED)**



## Prez Sez

Spring has arrived and with its appearance come community service activities. The amateur radio community prides itself on its volunteer spirit, so take time to participate in helping with the variety of walks and other club related events. The State Track Meet will be on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. It is always a fun event and requires a group of dedicated folks. Contact KØCTU to volunteer or learn more about what we do for the NSAA.

June will be a busy month with LOTS of activities going on. Make sure you stop by Freedom Park for the Museum Ships event on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be operating KØUSA from the Hazard. If there are enough volunteers, we can put two stations on the air. There is a sign-up form at the Club's web site ([www.aksarbenarc.org](http://www.aksarbenarc.org)), so take a moment to let us know you are interested in coming out.

Another event coming up is the science fiction convention, Contagion Outbreak, on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>. They are expecting about 3000 people to come through their doors. The AARC will have a booth in the main exhibition hall that needs to be staffed during the three days of the event, as well as people needed to help with the presentation on *Communications in a Post Apocalyptic World*. There will be a lot of things to see and do at the convention and it will be a great time to get the word out about amateur radio. You don't need to spend an entire day; a couple of hours will give a bit of relief to those who are able to be there all day. Among the other groups that will be there will be rocket enthusiasts and an R2-D2 builders club.

Finally Field Day! June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be heading out to Freedom Park for Field Day this year and the FD committee is asking for shack captains and co-captains. If you have never been to field day, it is a great time to learn about antennas and how to assemble a working station. It's also a great time to try a new mode or experiment with a new antenna. Again, this is not an event where you have to be at the park the entire time. If you haven't done field day before, that is okay, we have some experienced folks willing to help you.

Hope to see you all at the May club meeting, and to see many of you at the various events that the club has planned.

73, Mary NØTRK, President AARC

## Leo Meyerson, WØGFQ, Silent Key

Amateur radio pioneer Leo Meyerson passed away on April 13<sup>th</sup> in Rancho Mirage, California. Born in 1911, he celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 7<sup>th</sup> of this year. A lifetime member of Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, his accomplishments and contributions to ham radio were many—Most well-known, perhaps, was the founding of World Radio Laboratories in 1935 in Council Bluffs, IA. He will be missed by many.

(See the February, 2011 issue of Ham Hum for more information about Leo's life.)





## Veep Speaks

I want to thank Vern Wirka, WØVMP for his excellent presentation on the Maritime Radio Historical Society at the April Meeting.

I had hoped to get our Section Manager, KØAIZ to bring us up to date on what the ARRL is doing at the May meeting.

He is busy the night of the meeting, but will be at the June meeting. For the program in May, I thought it would be interesting for members to get up and tell the crowd what made them get interested in Amateur Radio. I am sure we will hear some interesting stories.

Many thanks to Rollie for having the door prize drawing at the meetings. See you at the May meeting.

73, Bill KEØXQ, Vice President AARC

## Club Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 36 attendees. Introductions by name and call.

Officers and Board Members present included: Bill, KEØXQ; Mary, NØTRK; Bill, WA9ASD; John, WBØCMC; Claudia, KCØSQX (now K1AUD).

There was a motion by Virginia, KDØBLG to approve the minutes of the March Club meeting as published in Ham Hum, seconded by Bill, KEØXQ. Passed by unanimous vote.

### Treasurer's Report – Marvin, AEØEG

In the absence of the Treasurer, Marv, AEØEG, the Treasurer's report is as published in the *Ham Hum*.

### President's Report - Mary, NØTRK

- The minutes of the most recent Board of Director's Meeting will be published in the next *Ham Hum*.
- Mary reported that she and Pat, KØTCU operated from the Strategic Air Command Museum on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> using the call WØEQU. This was the result of a last minute request for an "Amateur Radio presence" during the Indoor Air Show. They made about 25 on-the-air contacts and discussed ham radio with a number of the visitors.
- Mary also reported that the Board voted to obtain the KØUSA call-sign license plates for the Club trailer.
- She also reported on the \$1,000 Dick Jones, N6KVA memorial pledge by Victoria Peterson, Claudia's mother. All members were urged to communicate their ideas for a suitable asset to be acquired to represent the memorial. Ideas may be submitted on the Club website, by mail, e-mail, or by contacting any Board member.

(Continued on page 5.)

## Contest Calendar

### May 2011

CWops Mini-CWT Test

RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data

NCCC Sprint Ladder

FOC QSO Party

EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party

VOLTA WW RTTY Contest

FISTS Spring Sprint

Nevada Mustang Roundup

50 MHz Spring Sprint

WAB LF Phone

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint

RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW

Feld Hell Sprint

EU PSK DX Contest

His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW

Baltic Contest

SKCC Sprint

CWops Mini-CWT Test

NCCC Sprint Ladder

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW

ARCI Hootowl Sprint

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint

1300Z-1400Z and 1900Z-2000Z, May 11  
and 0300Z-0400Z, May 12

1900Z-2030Z, May 11

0230Z-0300Z, May 13

0000Z-2359Z, May 14

1000Z-1200Z, May 14 and 1800Z-2000Z, May 15

1200Z, May 14 to 1200Z, May 15

1700Z-2100Z, May 14

1700Z, May 14 to 1700Z, May 15

2300Z, May 14 to 0300Z, May 15

1000Z-1400Z, May 15

0100Z-0300Z, May 16

0030Z-0230Z, May 19

1900Z-2030Z, May 19

1500Z-1700Z, May 20 and 1800Z-2000Z, May 20

1200Z, May 21 to 1200Z, May 22

1200Z, May 21 to 1200Z, May 22

2100Z, May 21 to 0200Z, May 22

0000Z-0200Z, May 25

1300Z-1400Z and 1900Z-2000Z, May 25

and 0300Z-0400Z, May 26

0230Z-0300Z, May 27

0000Z, May 28 to 2359Z, May 29

2000 local - 2400 local, May 29

2300Z, May 29 to 0300Z, May 30

### June 2011

QRP Minimal Art Session

NCCC Sprint Ladder

10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint

1600Z-2200Z, Jun 2

0230Z-0300Z, Jun 3

0000Z, Jun 4 to 2400Z, Jun 5

0600Z-0629Z, and 0630Z-0659Z, Jun 4 and

0700Z-0729Z, Jun 4 and 0730Z-0800Z, Jun 4

1200Z, Jun 4 to 1200Z, Jun 5

1600Z, Jun 4 to 0400Z, Jun 5

1900Z-2030Z, Jun 6

0100Z-0300Z, Jun 7

SEANET Contest

Alabama QSO Party

RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data

ARS Spartan Sprint

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

### ***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.

### Corrections and Clarifications to the April Issue

In Saturday *Night Coffee*, page 12, Dick KBØKJV's call sign was incorrect. It's not KBØJKV. In the same article, the TS-2000 transceiver doesn't have the 1.2 GHz module installed, just UHF and VHF.

The dot matrix font used for the April Fools issue can be downloaded from Moonbase Press (<http://dionaea.com/information/fonts.php>) and will work in both Windows and Linux systems.

# PUZZLE

## Answer to Last Month's Puzzle

To summarize: WA9ASD has a grandfather clock that chimes the number of hours on the hour and once on the half-hour. One day, he came home and as he walked in the door, he heard the clock chime once. Every thirty minutes after that, it again chimed once for a total of four dings. What time was it when he walked through the door?

Answer: Twelve o'clock. The four-chimes puzzle is based on careful reading of the statement "...as he walked in the door...", hearing only the last chime of the 12 o'clock chime. Subsequent chimes, of course, were for 12:30, 1:00, and 1:30.

## May Puzzle

I couldn't think of anything new. The bulb did not shine. My thoughts were few. I was at the deadline!

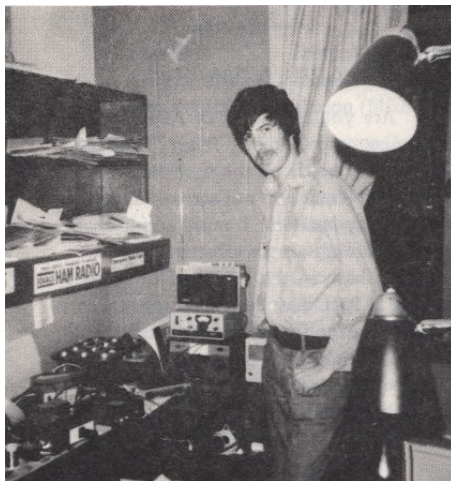
So I decided to stop. At least for the night. I laid down with a plop and would read, not write.

I read some old *Hums* that I planned to scan. But ideas didn't come, try as I can. Then I saw an old shot and the name rang a bell. It gave me a thought and I said "what the heck!"

The ham on the right you most likely know. Seen at meetings some nights or perhaps at a show.

Enough of this game, there are no more clues. Either guess his name or wait for the news.

*(Or, if you can't wait a month, you can come to the May meeting and maybe find out early.)*  
*Bill KCØSVC*



## **April Door Prizes**

Rollie ABØNN announced there'd be two Brown Bag Prizes up for raffle. One was the Brown Bag With Handle Prize and the other was the Grand Brown Bag Prize. There were also three standard prizes: Two were rotary tool kits, and one was a pair of multipurpose scissors.

Dave NØJSB won the scissors, one of the tool kits went to Claudia K1AUD, while the other was awarded to Mitchell WBØGBI. Bill WA9ASD won the Brown Bag w/Handle Prize, which turned out to be a socket set. Steve NØUP got the Grand Brown Bag Prize, which were revealed as two packages of brown lunch bags.

Mary NØTRK announced the donation of a dual-band HT for the year-end Grand Prize (plus a controller cable contributed by Bill KEØXQ).

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. For other details, see the Club meeting minutes in this issue.

- Mary gave a brief update on the club's planned Contagion Outbreak Convention activities on June 10-12. Volunteers are needed for that and the Museum Ships on the Air event on June 4. A copy of an informational handout about the club for the general public was presented for all to view.

## Vice President's Report - Bill, KEØXQ

The program for tonight's meeting will be by Vern Wrika, WØVMP on Morse Code, or as previously reported, Coastal Maritime Stations.

## ARES - Steve, NØUP There will be an ARES meeting in May. Currently no date set. Community Events - Pat, KØCTU

Help is needed for the MS Walk on April 30. The starting point will be the Civic Center and the route is planned to return all participants back to the finish at the Civic Center. Pat also requested help for the State Track Meet at the end of May.

## Education Committee - Mary, NØTRK

There are no classes by AARC scheduled at this time.

## Publications Committee - Bill, KCØSVC The *Ham Hum* has been distributed.

Also, Mary reported that there is now a calendar on the club web site, check it out.

## Repeater Committee - John, WBØCMC

Hasn't had time to investigate a possible timer issue.

## Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK

Several address issues with returned dues reminder cards are being researched.

## Field Day Committee - Claudia, KCØSQX (now K1AUD)

An organizational meeting will be scheduled.

## QSL and Technical Committee No report.

## Prize Committee - Rollie, ABØNN

- The door prizes for the meeting are a mystery prize, the "Brown Bag Door Prize," and three other prizes.
- Tickets are available for \$1 each, 6 tickets for \$5 or 12 tickets for \$10.
- All tickets from each meeting are retained for the December meeting drawing for the grand prize(s).
- Winner of the December prize(s) must be present to win.

## Old Business

Report about new club public service signs - N7JOD not present - Chris, NØCALL, companion of NØJSB, volunteered to research a large banner price before the next Board meeting.

## New Business None.

## Announcements

- Rich, WAØZQG reported on the one-man hamfest the next day.
- Claudia reminded everyone of the Weather Symposium on Saturday.
- WAØJYD and K9RZ of the Heartland DX Association reminded everyone of the Nebraska QSO Party beginning at 1100 UTC April 30 and ending at 1700 UTC on May 1.

There being no other business for the club, John, WBØCMC moved for adjournment; which was seconded by Steve, NØUP. Motion approved.

*Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC*

## Ak-Sar-Ben Club MS Walk Net Held on 146.82

When we were asked for our assistance at the MS Walk this year, we were told that the route would once again be making its way through downtown Omaha. While 146.94 works fine downtown if you're on a mobile radio, coverage is a little spotty when you're on an HT. Our workers would be using their HTs almost exclusively, so we needed another option. We asked, and received, permission from SWIARC to use 146.82. We were confident that their repeater would certainly cover downtown without any drop outs, and it did not disappoint.

This year the walk was held on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. We put our people on the route at 9AM and the walk officially started at 9:30. The weather turned out great and the walkers were in a great mood. They started at the NW corner of the Civic Auditorium building and winded through the Gene Leahy mall on their way to the Old Market before completing the loop back to the auditorium. The distance for the entire route was 3 miles.

Mary NØTRK and me (Pat KØCTU) were at the launch area, and we had six others out on the route. We had George KBØZZT watching the intersection at 13<sup>th</sup> and Farnam, and Greg W0AAI watching 14<sup>th</sup> and Douglas. Stationed at the four water stops were Wayne WH6BUL, Jerry W9JD, Corby KØSKW, and Bob NBØB.

Thanks again to SWIARC and the 146.82 regulars that shared the repeater with us. Also, thanks again to our group of volunteers, and to those that volunteer for all of our community event efforts throughout the year. You guys (and girls) are the greatest!

*Pat KØCTU*

## Contagion Update

*Communications in a Post Apocalyptic World* will be the theme of a presentation to science fiction fans at the upcoming Contagion: Outbreak Science Fiction Convention being held on June 10, 11, and 12 at the Qwest Center in Omaha, NE. Contagion: Outbreak is the Midwest's newest pop-culture expo which will include multiple genres including sci-fi, fantasy, horror, anime, and more! There will be a large exhibitor presence, celebrities, interactive panels, displays, artists, authors, and gaming.

In addition to the program, the club has been given the opportunity to have a booth in the main exhibition hall. Other organizations will include the Heartland Organization of Rocketry and the R2 D2 Builders (R2-Central). This is a great time to reach out to tech-minded people and expand on the building and experimentation parts of amateur radio that help us be able to stay on the air when the grid is down.

If you can help with providing some home brew radio creations, a low power FM transmitter, or a tiny (portable) ATV transmitter, or if you are available to help at any time between the following times:

- Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>, Noon – 7 PM
- Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM – 7 PM
- Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM – 5 PM,

contact Mary at n0trk@cox.net

The event's web site is at <http://www.contagionoutbreak.com/>

*Mary NØTRK*

## Club Calendar

- May 13** 7:00 PM Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Meeting Red Cross - 81<sup>st</sup> and Spring Streets.  
**May 20-21** State Track Meet - Burke High School. Contact Pat, KØCTU to volunteer and for information.  
**May 21** Bellevue ARC General Class - Midlands Hospital - Smith Room - 9:00 - 5:00 - Contact ladmclark@yahoo.com  
**May 20-22** **Dayton Hamvention.**  
**May 28** Bellevue ARC General Class - Midlands Hospital - Smith Room - 9:00 - 5:00 - Contact ladmclark@yahoo.com  
**May 31** 6:30 PM Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Board Meeting at Borders at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge.  
**Jun. 3-4** Museum Ships on the Air - Freedom Park, Omaha.  
**Jun. 10** 7:00 PM Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Meeting Red Cross - 81<sup>st</sup> and Spring Streets.  
**Jun. 10-12** Contagion Outbreak Convention - Qwest Center - Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Forum Presentation and man a booth - The title will be "Communication in a post-Apocalyptic world, or How Hollywood got it wrong." Either a one-hour or 2-1/2 hour presentations plus a 10-foot by 10-foot booth for the entire show. Anyone interested in participating should contact Mary, NØTRK.  
**Jun. 11** Bellevue ARC VE Testing - Midlands Hospital - McArdle Room - Registration 12:30 PM, Testing 1:00 PM.  
**Jun. 25-26** **Field Day** - Freedom Park Omaha - The club should consider a donation to the ships - possibly an antenna for the USS Hazard. The food will be hot dogs and hamburgers for Saturday, Breakfast on Sunday will be brought in and lunch will be leftovers. Contact Claudia, KCØSQX.  
**Jun. 28** 6:30 PM Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Board Meeting at Borders at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge.  
**Jul. 8** 7:00 PM Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Meeting Red Cross - 81<sup>st</sup> and Spring Streets.  
**Jul. (TBS)** License Class.  
**Jul. 16-17** Dave Babcock Memorial Bike Race - May need workers for both the Time Trials and the race. Contact Pat, KØCTU for details.  
**Jul. 26** 6:30 PM Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Board Meeting at Borders at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge.  
**Jul. 30** Pioneer ARC Hamfest - North Bend, NE. 9 AM – 12:30 PM. See [www.k0jfn.com](http://www.k0jfn.com) for details.  
**Aug. 3** Douglas County Evacuation Drill (no other information available).  
**Aug. 12** 7:00 PM Aksarben ARC Meeting Red Cross - 81st and Spring Streets.  
**Aug. 27** Air show in Lincoln. Offutt personnel will be participating due to the size of this event.  
**Aug. 30** 6:30 PM Aksarben ARC Board Meeting at Borders at 72nd and Dodge.  
**Sep. 11** The Offutt Air Show. We've had no involvement in the past; probably not this year either.

**Unknown Details:** Mentioned during the February AARC Club Meeting - There will be an OMMRS meeting about the August 13 Drill. The club was not involved last year but may be this year.

## Dick Jones Memorial Fund

The club has received donations in memorial to Dick Jones N6KVA and the board is looking for suggestions on how we should spend the money. Take a moment to send your idea to the Board of Directors at [board@aksarbenarc.org](mailto:board@aksarbenarc.org) – All ideas will be considered.

*Mary NØTRK*