

Dayton *(continued from page 3.)*

Ops spent a lot of time in the chat room explaining how to register (over and over). We requested “silence” at prize time, making it easier to see when each prize winner responded. We used the “silence” command to temporarily disallow a user’s typing, the “kick” command to boot a user from the chat (for typing during prize giveaways, for being rude or disruptive, and for posting web links). Users could also be banned for repeated disruptions. It seemed most users who were kicked or banned were not registered; possibly they weren’t even hams! We Ops also assisted with changing nicknames, welcomed people, reminded people of their manners, announced information, answered questions, chatted and enjoyed “attending Dayton”!

To win one of the many manufacturer-donated prizes (this year in excess of \$5,000) one had to register and then be in the chat room (and respond) at the time the prize was chosen. Two years ago I won an MFJ Atomic Clock, simply by typing “I’m here!” This year **KD4W-Don Wilson** won the grand prize, given by GigaParts: an FT-950 HF/6MTR Transceiver (list price \$1,369.00). Because KD4W was logged in at the time of the drawing he also received a Yaesu FT-250 Handheld Radio and a Nifty FT-950 Mini Manual. Other prizes included radios, baluns, hats, gift certificates, speakers, handbooks, antennas, a weather station, QSL cards, microphones, switches, coax, subscriptions, hats, and chokes.

Join us for Huntsville in August! Or just sign in to view videos and chat online...
<http://w5kub.com/>

Christina NØRIS

Meeting Minutes *(continued from page 5.)*

New Business

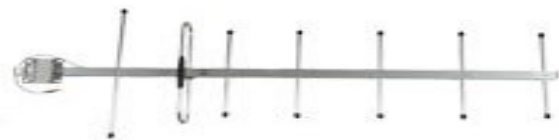
The question was posed - "Should we have a flea market this year." As there was no response, unless someone is compelled to step up and organize it, the will be none. Steve, NØUP, has researched band pass filters for use on field day. A motion was made by Steve, NØUP and seconded by Claudia, K1AUD, to purchase 4 band pass filters for \$73 each. Motion passed with all but 1 in favor.

Announcements

- The will be a license test session 6:30 PM at the Red Cross on May 31.
- Bill, KCØSVZ announced that the contest to name the individual pictured in the May Ham Hum was won by N5MHI with second place to WAØZQG. The picture was of WAØWRI, now known as Joe, KØNEB.

There being no other business for the club, John, WBØCMC moved for adjournment at 7:52 PM, seconded by Steve, NØUP. Motion approved.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC



AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

Volume LXI, Issue 6

June 2011

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



June 25-26

With the closing of Freedom Park due to flooding, the AARC Field Day Committee is working with the Omaha Parks Department to secure a new location as a backup site. As soon as the new location is secured they will let everyone know. You may also want to check one of the web sites listed on the bottom of page 2 for updates.

CONTAGION OUTBREAK JUNE 10-12

Communications in a Post Apocalyptic World will be the theme and we'll have a booth at the Qwest Center. Contact Mary, NØTRK (n0trk@cox.net) you can help with providing some home brew radio creations, or a low-power FM transmitter, or a tiny (portable) ATV transmitter, or if you are available to help at any time between the following hours:

Friday, June 10th: Noon – 7 PM

Saturday, June 11th: 10 AM – 7 PM

Sunday, June 12th: 10 AM – 5 PM

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
2011-2012 Board (Secretary)	Bill True	WA9ASD	402-426-2813	williamtrue@aol.com
2011-2012 Board (Treasurer)	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	AEØEG@arrl.net
2011	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
2011	Claudia Peterson	K1AUD	402-593-1950	kc0sqx@arrl.net
Immediate Past President	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net

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
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
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QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL		k0il@arrl.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	Darrel Swenson	KØAWB	402-690-0000	dswenson@wearne.net
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
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
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS		
EC Douglas County	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		
Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
NE Section Manager	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	402-421-0839	KØAIZ@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		ke0xq@cox.net
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph	KØCTU	402-492-9156	ppjoseph@cox.net

June Meeting

The next meeting of the AARC will be on Friday, May 10th, at 7:00 PM. The location is the Heartland Chapter House of the American Red Cross at 81st and Spring (near 81st and Center). Section Manager, Art Zygielbaum, KØAIZ, will talk about current events at the ARRL

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/>

Firefox Net Night

(Note: The following article is a report of the April 17th .94 Net meeting. It was bumped from the May issue due to space limitations.)

It started like any other Sunday night .94 net; but then after announcements, Rich ZQG asked to Poll the Net on Internet browsing habits after conclusion of regular items. Several participants mentioned the Firefox browser.

x KØCTU	Pat	N/C	Firefox

94 Sun.	17 April	2011	

WAØZQG	Rich	b/u	MSFT Sec.Ess.
x KDØINN	Derek		Firfx/Chrome
o KE6DZD	Wayne		
x WA6SWJ	Dave		
x KØCBS	Mark		3x Mac, Dell
o KEØXQ	Bill		
o WØAAI	Greg		
x K1AUD	Claudia		1985 upgraded
x NGØK	Doug		IE8, Firefox
o KC8IVE	Shawn		
o KGØS	Greg		
o KDØLGZ	Andrew		
o KDØDOE	Tracy		
o WAØA	Steve		
o KKØXX	Tyler		

Not everyone could hang around for the extended net, but of those who did a surprising number said they used the Firefox browser. ZQG said he had trouble recently after buying a new computer to replace one 5 years old. The new one slowed suddenly and the problem was in Internet Explorer version 8 and upgrading to IE 9 didn't solve it. Firefox and a new Zonet Wireless Router made it all better.

Derek INN said he uses Adblock Plus add-on software to Firefox, but has since switched to the Chrome browser. Mark CBS (works for Ch. 6) has three Macs; a Dell, and H/P computers. Runs Firefox and McAfee on the H/P.

Claudia (ex KCØSQX) K1AUD uses Adblock Plus but the most interesting aspect is she has a computer from 1985 that's been upgraded so many times there's little left of the original. Runs Linux and Firefox on it now – CPU is 1.8 Gc.

Doug NGØK uses both IE Ver. 8 and Firefox, and yes, Adblock Plus on them too. His anti-virus is AVAST to be compatible with work.

Rich WAØZQG



PARC Flea Market

The Pioneer Amateur Radio Club's 14th Annual Flea Market will be Saturday, July 30, 2011, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Location is: St. Charles Parish Center, 8th and Locust Streets, North Bend, NE. Talk-in on the 146.67/07 WNØL repeater

There will be VE testing, plus free coffee, tea, and food by Darlene's Diner (NØLOP). Prize Drawings held every half hour with the door prize drawing at 12:00 PM. The Grand Door Prize is a complete Weather Station.

Admission: \$2.00 at the door. Vendors aren't charged admission to the event but are eligible for the drawings. Vendor setup at 7:30 AM. Each 8-foot space is \$5.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door. Please send or email your registrations to: Rich Mehaffey KBØARZ, 2030 W. 11th Street, North Bend, NE 68469-4011 PH 402-652-3410.

Email: 4randjme@futuretk.com

Required information is: Full name, call sign, address, city, state, zip, phone, and email address. For more details, see the club's web page at: <http://www.k0jfn.com/>
Steve KFØMS

FEMA Admin Praises Hams

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

At the Earthquake Communications Preparedness Forum, held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 in Washington, DC, FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate, had some kind words to say about ham radio. He noted that ham radio really is valuable "when all else fails."

The Web page describing the conference <<http://www.fcc.gov/event/earthquake-communications-preparedness-forum>> has a video of all the talks given at the conference. Fugate's remarks begin at the 18:45 mark. His remarks about amateur radio start at about 29:20.

I think it's great that the head of FEMA thinks so highly of hams. Before you get all excited about this, though, listen to all of Fugate's comments. He has some interesting comments about all of the different ways that responders gather information and provide information to the public in an emergency. I think listening to all of the remarks will help give those of you who are involved with emergency communications more of an overall perspective, and may even help you evolve our role into something that's more useful in the future.

At one point, for example, Fugate held up a cell phone and told the audience to think of this device as both a data point and a sensor. Folks with cell phones can help emergency responders by sending video and audio of the situation, preparing the responders for what to expect when they do arrive. I don't know how many ARES/RACES groups have incorporated video into their emcomm plans, but it sounds like it should be.

(FEMA continued on page 7)

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.

Dayton 2011 via W5KUB – the Rapture and the Rupture

Christina Norris, NØRIS

(This is the first of a two-part article by Christina NØRIS on her experiences as a remote moderator of the W5KUB chat room at the 2011 Dayton Hamvention.)

I'm still a Dayton Virgin, but W5KUB was great inspiration! I spent Friday and Saturday (May 20, 21) this year attending Dayton Hamvention vicariously via **W5KUB-Tom Medlin's** live-video-streaming website and chat room (W5KUB.com). Tom broadcasts live, beginning with the car drive Wednesday from Memphis to Dayton, and ending Sunday at his home. The drive includes stops for Zagnuts, near-death accidents, traffic jams, restaurant stops, and lots of chat room activity. Two years ago we watched Officer Fitz stop them and say "wait here" while she pursued another call. An hour later they called Dispatch and were told they were "free to go."

The 5KUB videos and chat room are available all year. Archived videos include interviews of **KF5BOC/NA1SS-Astronaut Col Doug Wheelock**, an interview with **K9EID-Bob Heil**, Hamvention Arena tours, a 2011 DSTAR meeting, man-in-the-flea-market interviews, **W8CI-Michael Kalter (General Chairman of Hamvention 2011)**, Guest Speaker **VU2RBI- Devulapalli Bharathi Prasad**, a tour of MFJ, an interview with Cushcraft, Huntsville 2010, a GigaParts interview, Hamvention 2010 videos, the Officer Fitz video (to the tune of "I can't drive 55"), and some of Tom's personal videos.

W5KUB-Tom predicted upwards of 50,000 persons viewing the live streaming video on 5KUB over the 5 days. Viewership is worldwide. During the grand prize drawing over 1,000 people were in chat and over 1,300 were viewing. Discussions this year included a count of people using motorized carts, an attendee with a shopping cart, hams using cell phones (one while simultaneously using the microphone!), and the ever-constant chat room requests for prizes. This year signal issues prevented a walk-through of the Arena.

The predicted Rapture, scheduled to occur at 6:00 pm, Saturday, May 21, was a hot topic in the chat room. People from around the world were confused; there was discussion about time zones and daylight savings, and whether to mow the lawn or pay bills. As the deadline approached, people to the east commented they were still alive, and people to the west joked about not having to attend church. We were all still here! Saturday afternoon, the (only) 6-inch sewage pipe leading out of Hara Arena ruptured. The already dilapidated parking lot had a stream of sewage running through it. Those of us in the chat room were happy to continue without the odor. Tom prepared to pack up.

Administrators and Moderators (Ops)

Tom's wife Kathy does the behind-the-scenes work for prizes during transmission, including requests to Ops for assistance. W5KUB-Tom announces prizes over his microphone, does on-the-spot interviews with Hamvention attendees, and sets up, runs, and tears down his booth in the flea market in the parking lot at Hara. Ops this year included hams around the country from Michigan, Montana, Illinois, Alabama, and Nebraska. Tom also has a ham assisting him in the booth.

(Dayton continued on page 12.)



Veep Speaks

The program for the June meeting will be our ARRL Section Manager, Art Zygielbaum, KØAIZ. Art will bring us up to date on what is going on at the ARRL.

Last month's program on how people got interested in amateur radio was pretty interesting.

I hope many of you will be able to participate in Field Day. It is a fun activity and you might just learn something you didn't know.

See you at the June meeting.

73, Bill KEØXQ, Vice President AARC

Club Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2011

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 27 attendees. Introductions by name and call.

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

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

Treasurer's Report - Marv, AEØEG, reported that the account balances remained unchanged as there were no transactions.

Vice President's Report - Bill, KEØXQ reported that the program for tonight's meeting will be by the members in attendance on "How I got started in Amateur Radio" or what happened on May 13, 2011.

President's Report - Mary, NØTRK, reported that an entity contacted her about some commercial radio equipment that they wanted to donate to an organization. Mary accepted the equipment donation in the name of the club. Steve, NØUP took possession of the equipment and is preparing an inventory. Based on the inventory some of the equipment may be retained by the club and some may be sold. The proceeds from that sale could go to the Dick Jones, KØKVA Memorial Fund or other worthy projects.

Community Events - Pat, KØCTU reported that help is needed for the State Track Meet. He has State Track Meet 'stuff' for those present at the meeting.

Education Committee - Mary, NØTRK reported that it will probably be September before there is time for a class - unless volunteers would step forward to assist with a class in July.

Publications Committee - Bill, KCØSVZ - Ham Hum has been distributed. The monthly printer problems were minor.

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

Contest Calendar

June 2011

ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 7
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Jun 8
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 10
DRCG Long Distance Contest, RTTY	0000Z-0759Z & 1600Z-2359Z, Jun 11 and 0800Z-1559Z, Jun 12
Portugal Day Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Jun 11
VK Shires Contest	0600Z, Jun 11 to 0600Z, Jun 12
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	1100Z-1300Z, Jun 11
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z, Jun 11 to 1500Z, Jun 12
REF DDFM 6m Contest	1600Z, Jun 11 to 1600Z, Jun 12
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Jun 11 to 0259Z, Jun 13
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Jun 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jun 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 15
SARL Youth Day Sprint	0700Z-1100Z, Jun 16
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 17
All Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Jun 18 to 2400Z, Jun 19
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1659Z, Jun 18 (144) and 1700Z-1759Z, Jun 18 (432)
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Jun 18 to 1500Z, Jun 19
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 18 to 0200Z, Jun 19
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2359Z, Jun 18
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Jun 18
WAB 50 MHz Phone	0900Z-1500Z, Jun 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 20
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jun 22
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jun 22
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 23
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 24
VK/Trans-Tasman 160m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jun 25
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 25 to 1200Z, Jun 26
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	1200Z, Jun 25 to 1200Z, Jun 26
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jun 25 to 1400Z, Jun 26
ARCI Milliwatt Field Day	1800Z, Jun 25 to 2100Z, Jun 26
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 25 to 2100Z, Jun 26

July 2011

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z, Jul 2 to 2359Z, Jul 3
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 2 to 1059Z, Jul 3
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Jul 3
10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party	0001Z, Jul 4 to 2400Z, Jul 10
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 4
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	2300Z, Jul 4 to 0300Z, Jul 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 5

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

MARS Repeater Must GO!

In the vein of "no-good-deed-goes-unpunished," I now have an old RCA MARS VHF repeater and power supply. No cans, though. I believe it is a commercial repeater that has been converted to MARS frequencies. I need to get rid of them. They are in cabinets and the power supply is pretty heavy. No other markings other than a serial number and model number. Thanks. Jeff WBØM 402-679-7037

PUZZLE

Answer to Last Month's Puzzle

In case you haven't figured out who was the subject of May's puzzle, it was Joe KØNEB (then WAØWRI). Both of us thought it would be a tough one to solve, but were wrong. Two emails with the correct answer came in within hours of publishing the electronic copy of the *Ham Hum*; and it seemed that everyone at the May 13th meeting knew who it was in the picture. Perhaps it was the cupcake tin (left of the HW-7) that Joe still uses to hold parts when building kits.



In any case, bragging rights go to Jon N5MHI (formerly WBØGQT) for being the first to send in the correct answer. Turns out that Jon was the photographer of this picture, which first appeared in the January, 1976 issue of the *Ham Hum*. (Joe had been selected as Ham of the Month for that issue.) Second place bragging rights go to Rich WAØZQG, who emailed the answer a couple of hours after Jon.

The poetry used last month to describe the puzzle was intended as a clue. It was my attempt to emulate the triple meter writing style used by Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) in *The Cat in the Hat*. (Joe's "trademark hat" at Dayton.) I'm a better technical writer than poet—honest. I find that writing poetry is a lot harder than it looks.

Bill KCØSVZ

May Door Prizes

Club monthly door prizes this time included the Brown Bag mystery prize, a copy of *The ARRL Repeater Directory 2010-2011*, and a copy of *The ARRL Repeater Directory 2011-2012* (contributed by John WBØCMC). There was also three compartmentalized plastic storage containers; sizes small, medium, and large. All three were for holding such things as screws, nuts, resistors, capacitors, and integrated circuits.

Rollie, ABØNN conducted the session. Andrew, NØCALL assisted him by drawing the winning tickets. Both the small and medium storage containers went to Joe, KØNEB; while the large one was awarded to Dave, NØJSB. Mitch, WBØGBI won the 2010-2011 repeater directory, and Bill, KCØSVZ got the 2011-2012 copy. Claudia K1AUD received the Brown Bag prize, which turned out to be a seven-function multimeter.

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 Meeting Minutes in this issue.

Bill KCØSVZ

Meeting Minutes *(continued from page 4)*

Repeater Committee - John, WBØCMC reported that a visit was paid to the repeater. Some parts were replaced and it is unknown if the problem has been solved. A symptom of the problem is that although the repeater has not timed-out, it cuts off the audio early.

Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK, apologized for not providing the club roster as the updates to the database have not been completed.

Field Day Committee - Claudia, K1AUD reported that the City permission for use of Freedom Park has been received. The curfew waiver has been applied for.. There are still a few shack captain positions available for those who are still interested.

QSL and Technical Committee - no report.

Courtesy Committee - no action necessary

Public Awareness - Mary reported that volunteers are needed for the Museum Ships on the Air event on June 4 and gave a brief update on the club's planned Contagion Outbreak Convention activities on June 10-12. The presentation will be on communications provided following a zombie outbreak.

Prize Committee - Rollie, ABØNN, reported that "we are loaded tonight" He was then asked if there were any door prizes. The door prizes for the meeting are an assortment of compartmentalized storage containers, a mystery prize and the dreaded "Brown Bag Door Prize". 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. Steve, NØUP, the winner of the April Brown Bag Door Prize reported that the did come in handy for bagging various items. The April Brown Bag Door Prize was 100 brown bags.

Old Business

N6KVA Memorial Fund - 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. Discussion so far has identified a trailer.

New club public service signs - Thanks to Chris, NØCALL, for collecting the estimates. The Board has selected a vendor and a design which includes Aksarben Amateur Radio Club and the Club Emblem on a 3 1/2 by 9 foot banner. A motion was made by Bill, WA9ASD, seconded by John, WBØCMC and thirded by Rollie, ABØNN, to authorize the club to spend up to \$150 on the banner. Motion carried unanimously.

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 12.)

FEBRUARY TRIP TO HAITI – PART 2

(This concludes the two-part report of John WBØCMC's recent trip to Haiti. In the first part, published in the May, 2011 issue of Ham Hum, John described technical details of upgrading the TV and FM transmitters belonging to Pastor Revenel Benoit's Lutheran Church in Gonaives. In the following article, he tells of what they did for relaxation and what still needs to be done.)

So much for the technical part of the trip. There were some really fun things we did. Joe is an expert in martial arts and has won several competitions. He was up before me in the morning and was out in the yard of the guest house teaching the neighborhood kids some basic moves and self-defense before breakfast. They were loving it. It was something new to them. The next time we go down there, Joe wants to teach a class of self-defense for women. I think it would go over really big.



Joe showing Brooklyn John some self-defense.

There is a company in Gonaives from Viet Nam who is a new start up cell phone company. Revenel has been supplying them with sand and gravel for their construction needs. There is no local tower company there to do the work of installing the towers for them, so they have to get their tower people from Viet Nam. Quite expensive, I would imagine. Joe thinks he can train some of the locals to be tower climbers and Revenel will then have another business employing people and making money. Joe is also certified to do the training here in the states so it seems a very practical thing to do. Revenel has said on several occasions that his biggest need is human resources to come and teach the people to do better.

We had lots of vehicle problems this time. Two flat tires, a truck that wouldn't make it up the mountain road, another with a serious exhaust leak that we wound up refusing to go in since it was making Joe sick. I wasn't doing too well either. Revenel says he has 12 vehicles and only one is reliable and one more is serviceable if it gets the exhaust fixed. All but one are diesel. Anyone know of a good diesel mechanic who would be willing to spend a couple of weeks there training the locals to fix engines?



Joe on a comfortable rock enjoying the sunset.

This was the first time I've been there and had extra time to tinker with the new transmitter and really get the feel of it. We really have a good one. There was even sufficient time to leave a day early and spend it at Kalico Beach Resort. Joe got in some much longed-for swimming (he grew up in San Diego) and I got some welcome relax time. The room included dinner and breakfast so the price was quite reasonable.

That's it for this trip. I need to order and ship a lot of material and cable for the next trip. As soon as it gets there we'll go install it. At current power levels the antenna should work OK until then.

John WBØCMC

Club Calendar

- Jun. 10** 7:00 PM Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Meeting Red Cross - 81st 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 72nd and Dodge.
Jul. 8 7:00 PM Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Meeting Red Cross - 81st and Spring Streets. 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 72nd and Dodge.
Jul. 26 6:30 PM VE Testing. Red Cross Building - 81st and Spring Streets.
Jul. 30 Pioneer ARC Hamfest. North Bend, NE. 9 AM-12:30 PM. (www.k0jfn.com)
Aug. 3 Douglas County Evacuation Drill (no other information available).
Aug. 12 7:00 PM Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Meeting. Red Cross - 81st and Spring Streets.
Aug. 27-28 Air show in Lincoln. Offutt personnel will participate due to the size of this event.
Aug. 30 6:30 PM Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Board Meeting at Borders at 72nd and Dodge.
Sep. 11 The Offutt Air Show. AARC involvement currently uncertain.

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

FEMA (continued from page 10)

Also important, says Fugate, is a solid knowledge of communities, local geography, and place names. I'm not sure if that's normally a part of emcomm training, but it sounds like it should be.

I'll be the first to admit that I'm not an emergency communications geek, so perhaps I'm talking through my hat. It seems to me, however, that it's important to listen to what guys like Fugate are saying and work with them to make amateur radio even more relevant and useful in emergency situations.

Dan KB6NU

When he's not pondering the state of ham radio, you'll find KB6NU teaching classes; working on WA2HOM, the ham radio station at Ann Arbor's Hands-On Museum (www.wa2hom.org), or operating CW on the HF bands. You'll find his blog at www.kb6nu.com, or you can e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Tower For Sale

Self-Supporting Tower, Rohn HDBX48 w/40' & 48' rotor plates & thrust bearing, new HDBX hardware package and BXB8 concrete base stubs, extra "flat" steps kit, 10' carbon steel mast, grade 40 rebar (28); (costs for all items if new: \$2050); asking \$550. Contact Ed KØiL 402-598-0574