

(New ARRL continued from page 4)

Harbor Freight offers the three solar panels and a small charge controller on their web site for \$200. Forty five watts worth. Chris uses just three (45W) and a battery to run his all-band Kenwood radio. It's enough for the way he uses Amateur Radio.

Art UWR who also runs a solar station chimed in to list the advantages. Net Control, pointing out the advantages of fossil fuel derived electricity, seemed to get confused between Chris VEP's potential 180W panels and 180kW (kilowatts) that might power an automobile. Dave JSB said the 5.3 liter engine in his car was equivalent to (YQD helped calculate) 238 kilowatts. Net Control seemed to think you can poke a hole most anywhere in the Earth and fossil fuel oil will come spewing out. Even underwater.

The net continued to 10 minutes after 10PM

*report de Net Control Station*

## Saturday Night Coffee

The AARC Saturday Night Coffee meeting took place on May 15th, 6 PM, at the Perkins restaurant at 108th & L Streets. Enough people showed up that members commandeered four tables and placed them together to accommodate everyone. The Perkins staff didn't appear to have a problem with that as here weren't many other customers present at that time.

Attending were Rob KC0OYT, Chuck KD0BWI, Dick KB0KJV, Dick N6KVA, Mary N0TRK, Pat K0CTU, Ken AC0DQ, Claudia KC0SQX, Thomas KA0JVR, and Bill KC0SVZ.

While chowing down on fine food, members talked about many things including (but not limited to): Mary's latest tech toy, Livescribe Smartpen. (It records sound and converts notes to PDF, among other things.) Field Day at Standing Bear. (Claudia suggested taking a boat out on the lake and setting up a station to get mobile maritime points.) Packet Radio. Weather spotting. Linux vs. Windows. Old issues of the Ham Hum. (More have been made available at the Ak-Sar-Ben web site.) Dayton Hamvention. Nebraska State Track Meet. The new Ham Radio store in Ankeny, Iowa.

**Note:** AARC Saturday Night Coffee meets on the third Saturday of the month at Perkins Restaurant at 6:00 PM. See the AARC web site for details (page 2).

*Bill KC0SVZ*

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Ham Hum

Volume LX, Issue 6

June 2010

## Back-to-Nature Director's Meeting



On May 14 at 6 PM, AARC officers and board members were present to hold the monthly Club Directors' meeting. However, they were forced to wait outside the Red Cross building until Corby K0SKW arrived. The door was electronically locked and he was the only one with the combination.

When he arrived however, the door still wouldn't open to his efforts even though we could hear the solenoid activate. Corby called his contact with the Red Cross, who promised to come over right away to fix the problem.

While waiting, and since it was a nice day, everyone agreed to hold the Director's meeting at the picnic table next to the southwest door. Besides the usual activities (see page 6 for details), Corby gave the door combination to John WB0CMC and Bill KE0XQ.

After the meeting was concluded, Corby managed to get the door open. He called his Red Cross contact to inform him and everyone went inside to set up the room for the regular club meeting.

All-in-all, it was a warm pleasant day and everybody enjoyed the experience—save possibly Greg N7JOD, who had a hard time reading his laptop display in the bright sunlight.

*Bill KC0SVZ*

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](mailto:hamhum@aksarbenarc.org). Please contact the editor for permission to reprint anything appearing in the Ham Hum.

### Club Officers & Board Members

President	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	<a href="mailto:wb0cmc@cox.net">wb0cmc@cox.net</a>
Vice President	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	402-690-7965	<a href="mailto:ke0xq@cox.net">ke0xq@cox.net</a>
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2009-2010 Board	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	<a href="mailto:AE0EG@arrl.net">AE0EG@arrl.net</a>
2010-2011 Board	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	<a href="mailto:kc0shz@yahoo.com">kc0shz@yahoo.com</a>
2010-2011 Board	Dick Jones	N6KVA		<a href="mailto:n6kva@arrl.net">n6kva@arrl.net</a>

### Standing Committee Chairs

Public Service/Emergency	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	<a href="mailto:kc0shz@yahoo.com">kc0shz@yahoo.com</a>
Education	Open Contact	John Gebuhr	<a href="mailto:wb0cmc@cox.net">wb0cmc@cox.net</a>	for more information
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	<a href="mailto:n0trk@arrl.net">n0trk@arrl.net</a>
Publications	Bill Wilkinson	KCØSVZ	402-397-8803	<a href="mailto:kc0svz@yahoo.com">kc0svz@yahoo.com</a>
Web Services	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	<a href="mailto:n0trk@arrl.net">n0trk@arrl.net</a>
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7774	<a href="mailto:wa0zqg@yahoo.com">wa0zqg@yahoo.com</a>
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL		<a href="mailto:k0il@arrl.net">k0il@arrl.net</a>

### Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	<a href="mailto:wb0cmc@cox.net">wb0cmc@cox.net</a>
Vice Chairman	Darrel Swenson	KØAWB	402-690-0000	<a href="mailto:dswenson@wearne.net">dswenson@wearne.net</a>
Member	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	<a href="mailto:n0up@arrl.net">n0up@arrl.net</a>
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	<a href="mailto:n0trk@arrl.net">n0trk@arrl.net</a>
Club Callsign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	<a href="mailto:k0skw@k0skw.net">k0skw@k0skw.net</a>

### Other Contacts

Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	<a href="mailto:bzdan@novia.net">bzdan@novia.net</a>
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph	KØCTU	402-492-9156	<a href="mailto:ppjoseph@cox.net">ppjoseph@cox.net</a>
ARRL Midwest Director	Clifford Ahrens	KØCA	573-221-8618	<a href="mailto:k0ca@arrl.org">k0ca@arrl.org</a>
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS		
NE Section Manager	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	402-421-0839	<a href="mailto:K0AIZ@arrl.org">K0AIZ@arrl.org</a>
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		<a href="mailto:ke0xq@cox.net">ke0xq@cox.net</a>
EC Douglas County	Darwin Piatt	W9HZC	402-991-0412	<a href="mailto:w9hzc@cox.net">w9hzc@cox.net</a>
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the AARC will be on **June 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. The location is the Heartland Chapter House of the American Red Cross at 81<sup>st</sup> and Spring (near 84<sup>th</sup> and Center). Bill True, WA9ASD, will give a presentation on how to turn on a light bulb.

### 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/>

## Upcoming Events

- Jun 11 AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 6:30 PM, Red Cross, Omaha.
- Jun 11 AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM Red Cross, Omaha.
- Jun 19 Saturday Night Coffee, 6 PM, Perkins, 108th & L, Omaha.
- Jun 26-27 Field Day
- Jul 3 Saturday Breakfast, 8 AM, HyVee, 90th & Center, Omaha.
- Jul 9 AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 6:30 PM, Red Cross, Omaha.
- Jul 9 AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM Red Cross, Omaha.

## Reminder: Field Day 2010 is in June!



Field Day at Standing Bear in 2005

Tentative location is Standing Bear Lake, June 26th through 27th. If you'd like to help, contact Claudia, KCØSQX (email: [kc0sqx@arrl.net](mailto:kc0sqx@arrl.net)). More details at the Club meeting on June 11th.

## Auction

Good afternoon, My husband belonged to the radio club and he passed away in January. I am having an auction on Saturday, August 28th, 2010 in which his equipment will be for auction. Don't know if anyone would be interested but wanted to let you know.

Mary Jo Keating  
593-0311  
14101 So 65  
Papillion NE 68133  
[jodik2000@aol.com](mailto:jodik2000@aol.com)

*Submitted by Corby, KØSKW.*

## Black & White

*Rich Swig, WAØZQG*

In perusing a schematic of a computer power supply the other day I noticed one side of the AC line went directly to ground. Not the chassis. Power supply ground which is isolated from the metal part. It made me remember the "good old days" when they sometimes did that - right to the metal chassis and then to the case and shaft of the volume control—so if you took off the knob you could touch the chassis (with therefore a 50-50 chance of touching either 120 VAC **Line In** or the 0 Volt **Neutral**).

D'ya know about GFIs? Ground Fault Interrupters? They're required in all new construction, especially in the bathrooms where you could get between **Line In** and a good water pipe **ground**. My house was built in 1974 and didn't have any. I put in two, one in the shack and one in a bathroom. Good idea.

P.S. Some are RF sensitive. Don't buy a whole lot until you determine that aspect. John QKH said he can trip one in his house with 30 mW of RF.

P.P.S. Don't install your own GFI unless you can thoroughly explain the title of this article and how it relates to getting an electric shock.

## Call for Articles

Do you have that restless urge to write? Have something you'd like to share with the rest of the Club? We're always looking for Ham-related material to publish. If you have an article to submit, send it to us and we'll try to get it in the earliest possible issue (current events get priority). See the fine print at the top of page 2 for conditions.

## Raffle

Door prizes are once again a regular feature of the AARC meetings. Be sure to attend the get-together on June 11 and you may win something neat.

## Prez Sez

A big thank you to Bill, WA9ASD, for the bulk of the program in May. He's always fun to listen to and interesting as well. He's got the program for this month, too. If you thought you knew how to turn on a light bulb, come and find out how much you didn't know but were afraid to ask. Thanks also to Doug, KGØK for his hand in it as well.

Something of interest to all hams who may have something tied to a tree in the parking; think about moving it. It seems the city forester is new and wants to show his might. After 35 years, one set of guy wires for the 147.00 tower had to be removed from a hardwood tree. It didn't matter that great care had been taken to keep the wires from damaging or choking the tree and that there was a second opinion from two registered arborists at the NU extension office contrary to what he said. So, without getting into minor city official bashing: Be advised.

Don't forget field day this month. More on that at the meeting. See you there.

*John, WBØCMC – President AARC*

## Veep Speaks

I would like to thank John for the program on Direction Finding at the May meeting. The program for the June meeting will be by Bill, WA9ASD – How To Turn on a Light. Thanks to Rollie, ABØNN for the door prizes at the meeting. For the July meeting, plans are to have a "tailgate meeting" in the parking lot at the Red Cross. Bring any items you would like to sell. There will be no tables available for displaying items for sale. You are also responsible for taking these items you do not sell back home with you. I am still looking for ideas on programs for future meetings. Hope to see you at the June meeting.

*73, Bill, KEØXQ – Vice President AARC*

### *Erratum*

In the May, 2010 issue of *Ham Hum* (paper version), the caption for the photo collage on page 5 shows Rich Swig's call sign as KAØZQG. That should have been WAØZQG. Our apologies to Mr. Swig. This has been corrected in the online copy available from the Club Web site (<http://www.aksarbenarc.org/main/>).



## Monday Night .94 Net: New ARRL Site

*Rich Swig, WAØZQG*

The Monday night net on .94 attracted about a dozen stations who were asked, "Are you a member of ARL and have you visited the web site recently?" Of the group, five (5) guys said they were members, and several said they'd had difficulty getting used to the features of the new site.

Rich	WAØZQG	Y-Y
=====		
.94 Mon.	31 May	2010
=====		
KDØDBO	Rick	Y-N Hamkitt trip
WA6SWJ	Dave	N-N VE7 F/Day
KE4YQD	Rick	Y-Y F/Day
NØXII	Steve	
KDØINN	Derek	N-Y
KBØUWR	Art	N-Y Solar
NØUP	Steve	Y-Y mobile, Blvu
WAØJYD	Norm	N-Y talked to DBO
KCØVEP	Chris	Y-N F/Day & Solar
NØJSB	Dave	5.3L, 238kW

Rick DBO is a recent licensee from Lincoln NE, and was on the way back from a trip to Ankeny IA where he visited the new radio store - Hamkitt dot com. Norm JYD talked to him mobile before the net.

Net Control complained to everyone who would listen that it now takes six (6) clicks to list Hamfests in the Midwest Division and the old ARL site only took four (4) clicks. He also had trouble finding the QST-in-depth info referenced on page 32 of the new June issue QST. (It's clearly stated on page 30.)

Field Day (June 26-7 this year) was one subject on the net. Dave SWJ said he worked a VE7 one year. (You don't hear many out-of-country stations due to the extreme noise and congestion.) Rick YQD agreed the new ARL site is difficult - if only 'cause it's new. He mentioned the Ak club is going to Standing Bear on Field Day and SWIARC will be at Hitchcock, 12 miles North of Council Bluffs. Chris VEP said he's refurbished both his 80M and 30M dipoles and will be on PSK 31 during Field Day. (Not 30. F/Day avoids 30, 17, and 12M.)

Chris also said he got a great deal on solar panels as a friend was leaving town. He bought four sets of three panels for the price of one. Total of 180 Watts.

*(NewARRL continued on page 12)*

## New NE License Plate



Thanks to the hard work of Bob Mitchell, WBØRJJ, our Section State Government Liaison, Nebraska will be issuing new amateur radio "call plates" starting in 2011. The graphic and call letters will be forest green until 2017. Then they will switch to either blue or black.

Amateur Radio Plates are available through the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles to any person who holds a valid Amateur Radio Station License issued by the Federal Communications Commission.

The plates are inscribed with the applicant's official amateur radio call letters and are issued in lieu of regular plates. Amateur Radio Plates may be placed on motor vehicles, motorcycles, trailers, semitrailers and cabin trailers.

The fee for a set of Amateur Radio Plates is \$5.00 in addition to any other applicable registration fees and taxes and is paid to the County Treasurer at the time of initial registration and annually when the registration is renewed.

Amateur Radio License Plates do not afford the registered owner any special parking privileges.

You can print the application form here:

<http://www.dmv.ne.gov/dvr/pdf/amradio.pdf>

*(Picture and text source: AARC Web Site, <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/main/>)*

## Contest Calendar

### **June, 2010**

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 11
Bill Windle QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Jun 12
VK Shires Contest	0600Z, Jun 12 to 0600Z, Jun 13
DRCG Long Distance Contest, RTTY	0800Z-1559Z, Jun 12 and 0000Z-0759Z, Jun 13 and 1600Z-2359Z, Jun 13
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z, Jun 12 to 1500Z, Jun 13
REF DDFM 6m Contest	1600Z, Jun 12 to 1600Z, Jun 13
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Jun 12 to 0300Z, Jun 14
BARTG Sprint 75	2000Z-2359Z, Jun 12
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Jun 13
WAB 50 MHz Phone	0900Z-1500Z, Jun 13
SARL Youth Day Sprint	0900Z-1000Z, Jun 16
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 18
SMIRK Contest	0000Z, Jun 19 to 2400Z, Jun 20
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1659Z, Jun 19 (144) and 1700Z-1759Z, Jun 19 (432)
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jun 19
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Jun 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 21
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jun 23
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 24
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 26 to 1200Z, Jun 27
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jun 26 to 1400Z, Jun 27
ARCI Milliwatt Field Day	1800Z, Jun 26 to 2100Z, Jun 27
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 26 to 2100Z, Jun 27

### **July, 2010**

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 2
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Jul 4
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 10
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 10 to 1200Z, Jul 11
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, Jul 10
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 17 to 2100Z, Jul 18
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 17 to 0600Z, Jul 18
WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone	1000Z-1400Z, Jul 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 19
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jul 22

For details check the following web site the week prior to the contest.

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

## **Tech Test Gets a Little More Technical**

*Dan Romanchik, KB6NU*

Ever since the FCC dropped the code requirement and the Novice license exam, the Technician Class license has really been misnamed. Being the first license that most hams obtain, it really should have been called the Novice license. The question pool was arguably at the appropriate level for newcomers to amateur radio, being heavy on rules and operating practices, and perhaps a little light on technical topics.

That's about to change. On July 1, 2010, the question pool for the Tech test changes, and this version has noticeably more technical questions than the previous test. You could say that the Tech test is getting, errrr, a little more technical.

For example, the new question pool contains more questions about electronics components and their functions. In addition to that, examinees must also be able to identify the symbols for these components on a schematic diagram. This is a big change from the previous test, which had no diagrams at all. There are also more detailed questions about transistors and how they work.

There are also questions on how to make basic measurements with a multimeter how to troubleshoot basic problems that Technicians are likely to encounter. One question asks, "What two measurements are commonly made using a multimeter"? Answer: voltage and resistance. A follow up question asks, "What is the correct way to connect a voltmeter to a circuit"? Answer: in parallel with the circuit.

To make room for these questions, the committee dropped questions on operating practices and rules and regulations. In general, these are not big losses, but two questions that I was sorry to see go are the questions on the "basis and purpose" of amateur radio. I think these are very important for new amateurs to learn and keep in mind. (If you don't recall them, go to <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> and review them.)

By the time you read this--or shortly thereafter--the new version of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide should be available. You can download it free of charge from my website, [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com). Look for the link in the right-hand column. It's currently in the hands of more than two dozen reviewers, who are proofreading it right now.

While it may not be in the initial release, I plan to include a section that contains links to websites that cover topics included in the study guide. That way, students can find more information on a topic, if they choose to do so. If you have any favorite websites that discuss making measurements with voltmeters or how to read schematic diagrams, I'd love to hear from you.

*When not updating his No-Nonsense amateur radio license study guides, you'll find Dan on 40m, 30m, 20m, and if we ever get any sunspots to stick around, 15m and 10m pounding brass. You may even hear him trying to get the hang of using the bug he bought at Dayton this year. You'll find his blog at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com), and you can e-mail website suggestions to [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com)*

*(Article submitted to Ham Hum by Steve NQUP)*

## Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2010

### Roll Call

[x] Corby – KØSKW      [x] Jim – KCØSHZ      [x] Bill – KEØXQ      [x]  
 Dick – N6KVA      [x] Marvin – AEØEG      [x] Greg – N7JOD  
 [x] John – WBØCMC      [x] Bill – KCØSVZ

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:45pm.

President – John, WBØCMC

Vice President/Programs – Bill, KEØXQ

Direction Finding.

Treasurer – Marvin, AEØEG

Latest report available:

Checking	770.53	
MM Acct	5,040.72	Int.
Repeater	1,152.12	
Repeater CD	2,293.46	
CD	16,189.70	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,352.97</b>	

Unfinished Business

None

Public Service – Jim – KCØSHZ

Publications – Bill, KCØSVZ

Ham Hum printed and mailed.

New Business – John, WBØCMC

Other

Meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

The next Board of Directors' meeting will be in Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

*Greg Carlson, N7JØD, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary.*

## Club Business Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2010

### Club Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2010

The meeting started at 7:30 pm with approximately 25 in attendance.

President's Report – John, WBØCMC

Pledge to the flag. Attendance by call sign. Minutes approved as read.

Vice President's Report and Programs – Bill, KEØXQ

Direction Finding (“DFing”)

Next month: Bill, W9ASD, “How to Turn on a Light!”

Treasurer – (report as of January, 2010)

Checking	770.53	
MM Acct	5,040.72	Int.
Repeater	1,152.12	
Repeater CD	2,293.46	
CD	16,189.70	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,352.97</b>	

Repeater – John, WBØCMC – working well.

Special Events – Pat, KØCTU

State Track Meet 21-22 May at Burke HS

Babcook Mem Bike Race July 10-11

MS Run also 10-11 July

Publications – Bill, KCØSVZ good to go with different printer next time

Education – Mary NØTRK – New question pool coming out. Will update by fall.

Membership – Mary, NØTRK – needs members database update

Unfinished Business

Field Day at Standing Bear on 25-27 June (see Claudia, KCØSQX @arrl.net)

Gave details so far, including meals, antennas, etc

New Business

Other:

- Raffle tonight
- VE exam May 25 at 6:30pm at Red Cross (contact will now be K9RZ, Bill Jackson) - many other sessions around this month.
- QRP club tomorrow at 11am at the Bread Dough Pizza in Ashland
- Other items as per the Ham Hum

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm for program followed by coffee at Perkin's on 108<sup>th</sup> and L

*Greg Carlson, N7JØD, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary*