

(How to Turn On a Light continued from page 1)

When used as part of a home security system, some X10 equipment can be programmed to dial a number if there's an emergency—a break-in, for example. However, Bill pointed out that it's not a good idea to have it dial 911: The operator needs to ask specific questions about the type of emergency and other details to get the right people to the right place in the shortest amount of time; information a machine can't provide.

The equipment is modular, reasonably priced, and devices can be added at any time. When browsing an X10 web page (link below), Bill stated that the temptation is to "...create a problem that is solved by the gadget you want to get." Parenthetically, he pointed out that one must beware of devices that are "chindogu," a Japanese term for "unuseless." A gadget is chindou if it performs a practical function that no one really wants. (A classic example is the device that lets you strap a roll of toilet paper to the top of your head so—if you're about to sneeze or need to blow your nose—you can reach up and pull down a few sheets.)

WA9ASD also described some of the technical details of X10 operation. This included frequencies used, possible sources of interference, interfacing, and communications protocol. The X10 protocol is an industry standard, which helps ensure interoperability between different manufacturer's modules.

Links

X10 Products: <http://www.x10.com/homepage.htm>

X10 Technology: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X10_%28industry_standard%29

International Chindogu Society: <http://chindogu.com/chindogu/>

Bill, KC0SVZ

Field Day Log

We had 17 Hams attending and four visitors, two which got to operate and one of those two has already ordered Technician license information. The two who operated, Linda and Dan, each got to work several East coast stations on six meters.

On the operating side we had 133 contacts: 11 on 40 meters (2 CW, 9 SSB); 68 on 20 meters; 26 on 10 meters (25 SSB, 1 CW) and a nice opening six meters with 22 SSB and six CW Qs. The six-meter opening lasted from the afternoon until almost 9 p.m. that night. There's one more log to count, also.

The last QSO was by Derek, KDØINN, with N3IC at 17:50 on 20 meters. Thanks again to everyone who helped.

Jeff, WBØM

Saturday Night Coffee

AARC members met at Perkins Restaurant at 108th & L Streets on June 19th for the monthly Saturday Night Coffee. Attending were Pat KØCTU, Corby KØSKW, Claudia KCØSQZ, Bill KCØSVZ, Chuck KDØBWI, Christina NØRIS, Mary NØTRK, and Greg WØAAI.

The discussion was informal and covered diverse subjects as APRS, Field Day, techniques for sending antennas into trees, digital storage scopes, kit building, spare rooms with lots of "stuff" in them, floods, Facebook, and alien abductions. In all, it was an interesting evening.

Bill, KCØSVZ

How to Turn On a Light



WA9ASD with some of his controllers.

Bill True, WA9ASD, gave a presentation on how to turn on a light at the June, 2010 meeting. One would think that this would make for a very short meeting considering that the audience consisted of people with above average electronics skills. However, Bill gave a talk that was both entertaining and educational. His subject matter ranged from basic slight-of-hand (lighting a bulb with a magnet and magnetic reed switch) to describing and demonstrating a complex home lighting system using X10 power line controllers and related equipment. The latter included controlling lights (directly and with timers), sensing when doors and windows were opened, and using video systems to remotely monitor areas, to name a few.

(How to Turn On a Light continued on page 12)

👉 **Inside This Issue: Field Day Photos** 👈

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.

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EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		

July Meeting

The next meeting of the AARC will be on **July 9th** at 7:30 p.m. The location is the Heartland Chapter House of the American Red Cross at 81st and Spring (near 84th and Center). This month will be a tailgate flea market in the parking lot. See *Veep Speaks* for details.

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

- 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.
- Jul 10-11 Babcock Memorial Race, Mt. Michael Abbey, Elkhorn, NE.
- Jul 14 ARES meeting, 7 PM, Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, Omaha.
- Jul 17 Saturday Night Coffee, 6 PM, Perkins, 108th & L, Omaha.
- Aug 7 Saturday Breakfast, 8 AM, HyVee, 90th & Center, Omaha.
- Aug 13 AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 6:30 PM, Red Cross, Omaha.
- Aug 13 AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM Red Cross, Omaha.
- Aug 28 Equipment Auction, Mary Keating, Papillion, NE.

Babcock Memorial Race July 10th

Over the past few years we've been supplying radio assistance for the Babcock Memorial bicycle races. The date for this year is Saturday, July 10, and Sunday, July 11th. The staging point is at Mount Michael Abbey which is just northwest of Elkhorn. The route for both races will start at Mount Michael and will run on roads that are northwest of the Abbey.

The races will consist of a time trial on Saturday morning and a road race on Sunday. The Saturday race will start at 9 AM and should run until about 11:30. The Sunday race from 9:00 AM and should run until about 2:30 PM. We will be supplying stationary spots out on the route as well as people in vehicles on the route.

If you would like to volunteer for either day send me a reply at k0ctu@arrl.net. Let me know which race and what time of day you can help. Thanks.
Pat, KØCTU

ARES Meeting July 14th

Douglas County ARES will be having a meeting on Wednesday, July 14 2010 at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria of the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street. Please park on the street, Farnam has lots of on street parking available.

Identification cards will be available for those who need them.

Steve, NØUP
Interim EC, Douglas County ARES
<mailto:n0up@cox.net>

Equipment Auction August 28

AARC member Allen Keating, KØLHS, became a Silent Key on January 25, 2010. His wife, Mary Jo Keating, is having an auction on Saturday, August 28th, 2010 in which his equipment will be up for bidding. Contact: Mary Jo Keating, 14101 So 65, Papillion NE 68133. Email: jodik2000@aol.com

Corby, KØSKW

Club Business Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2010

The meeting started at 7:30 pm with 20-25 members in attendance. Called to order by Bill, KEØXQ (John, WBØCMC is out of town). Pledge to the flag. Attendance by call sign. Minutes approved as read.

President's Report – John, WBØCMC

Vice President's Report and Programs – Bill, KEØXQ

- “How to Turn on a Light!” Bill, WA9ASD.
- Next month: Flea Tailgate outside Red Cross.

Treasurer's Report – Marvin, AEØEG

Checking	763.29	
MM Acct	5,041.15	
Repeater	1,152.12	
Repeater CD	2,297.85	
CD	16,189.83	
Total	25,444.24	

Repeater – John, WBØCMC – seems to be working well.

Public Service – Pat

- Thanks for turn out at State Track Meet 21-22 May at Burke HS
- Babcock Memorial Bike Race July 10-11

Publications – Bill, KCØSVZ – Hums went out. Extras available.

Education – Mary NØTRK – New question pool coming out – effective end of June. Will do a program in 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

The new Douglas Co EC is Steve, NØUP. Steve said meetings will probably be every other month beginning in July. His e-mail is NØUP@cox.net.

Other

- Raffle tonight - Rollie, ABØNN has door prizes. Chances at \$1 or six for \$5
- VE exam end of July at 6:30pm at Red Cross (contact will now be K9RZ, Bill Jackson)
- QRP club tomorrow at 11am at the Bread Dough Pizza in Ashland.
- Other items as per the Ham Hum
- Bill KEØXQ received a radio and supplies donation, from Olie Olson, previously active in Omaha Hawks. He has been SK for a couple years. Bill will write a thank you on behalf of the club.
- Health and Welfare: Dick, N6KVA is in the hospital. Claudia, KCØSQX is busy with him and may not be able to be at Field Day.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm for program followed by coffee at Perkin's on 108th and L

Greg Carlson, N7JOD, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary

Prez Sez



Thanks to all who filled in for me at the June meeting. I understand it was a good one.

It took longer than anticipated to disassemble and pack the big analog transmitter at WRTV in Indianapolis. Shipping weight was just under 10000 pounds, to give some idea. As I write this, it is sitting in a warehouse in Florida waiting for a boat to Haiti.

I've heard rumors of the program for July but will leave that to Bill KEØXQ to announce.

Field day was fun this year for a lot of folks. It was better attended this year and the food was terrific. A big thanks to Steve NØ Utter Perfection for his cooking skills. Other results unavailable till the meeting (probably).

See y'all July 9th.

John, WBØCMC – President AARC



WRTV Transmitter and other analog equipment (on mat) prior to disassembly.

Veep Speaks

Thanks to Bill, WA9ASD for the program at the June meeting. Sort of makes you want to make all of your lights in your house to be operated by remote control.

This month, there will be a short business meeting followed by a "tailgate" mini flea market in the Red Cross parking lot. This was done several years ago and it was requested the club do so again. There will be no tables provided. You will be responsible to take what you didn't sell/trade back home with you.

Congratulations to Steve, NØUP for being appointed E.C. for Douglas county. Steve also suggested the possibility of another flea market sometime in September or October.

The estate of Olie (Oscar) Olsen (KAØJNS) has donated to the club a Kenwood TS180 with matching power supply, antenna tuner, microphone and speaker. Condition of the equipment is unknown and I hope to check it out in the next few weeks.

I am still looking for programs for future meetings. Contact me if you have any ideas. That is it for this month.

73, Bill, KEØXQ – Vice President AARC

Swap Net & Want Ads

(Courtesy of Rich, WAØGQZ)

FOR SALE: DRAKE TR-7 w/PS & tuner. TR-7 all solid state transceiver has gen'l cov'g receiver. Comes w/man'l plus PS-7 and MN-7 matching tuner. Very good w'kg condition. Asking \$700. Call Bob, WAØDHU, (402) 592-9858. Email RLockNE@MSN.com

FOR SALE: 500W versions of V2R & V4R Hy-Gain omnis for 2M and 440 (collinear antennas) xlnt condx \$25 for 2M, \$20 for 440 - \$40 both. Call Wayne KE6DZD, (402) 292-1727. Email KE6DZD@Cox.net

FOR SALE: IC-207H dual band rig. Incl DTMF mike & separation kit \$130. IC-703 portable QRP runs 5W on 9V or 10W on 13V. Incl. mike, box, manual. \$450. IC-706 MkIIg all-band, all-mode rig. (HF thru 440) incl separation kit Mike & orig box. Power cord has Anderson power pole conn. \$750. LDG-200 auto tuner w/man'l. \$170. Hi-Sierra SIDEKICK model screwdriver antenna. Asking \$175. MFJ 20M CW transceiver & power supply (this is their line of monoband rigs) 10W output. Incl both boxes. \$90. MFJ 1796 antenna. Covers 40M to 2M. Mounts vertically w/lower end stuck out horizontally. \$140. AEA/TIMEWAVE PK-900 terminal unit. Runs various digital modes (RTTY, Packet, Slo-scan, etc.) \$125. Call Tom KØAMD, (402) 536-0912. Email K0AMD@Cox.net

FOR FREE: Lo-loss hardline coax. 75 Ohm. Includes instructions to attach PL connectors using stainless steel hose clamps. Less than 1dB/100. Call Rich WAØZQG, (712) 256-7774. Email WA0ZQG@Yahoo.com

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2010

Roll Call

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

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm by VP Bill, KEØXQ.

President – John, WBØCMC

Vice President/Programs – Bill, KEØXQ

"How to Turn On A Light!" is tonight's program.

Bill KEØXQ received a radio and supplies donation, from Olie Olson, previously active in Omaha Hawks. He has been SK for a couple years. Bill will write a thank you on behalf of the club.

Next month program: an outside tailgate/trunk sale.

Treasurer – Marvin, AEØEG

Checking	763.29	
MM Acct	5,041.15	
Repeater	1,152.12	
Repeater CD	2,297.85	
CD	16,189.83	
Total	25,444.24	

Unfinished Business

Final details for Field Day discussed.

Public Service – Jim – KCØSHZ

Publications – Bill, KCØSVZ needs a printer roller.

New Business

The new Douglas Co EC is Steve, NØUP. Steve said meetings will probably be every other month beginning in July.

Save October or early November for a Fleafest, possibly in Springfield.

Other

Health and Welfare: Dick, N6KVA is in the hospital. Claudia, KCØSQX is busy with him and may not be able to be at Field Day.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be in Friday, July 9 at 6:30pm.

Greg Carlson, N7JOD, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary.

Contest Calendar

July, 2010

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
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Jul 11
ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Jul 11
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 14
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1100Z-1200Z, Jul 14 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 14 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jul 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 14
DMC RTTY Contest	1200Z, Jul 17 to 1200Z, Jul 18
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 17 to 2100Z, Jul 18
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 17 to 0600Z, Jul 18
RSGB Low Power Field Day	0900Z-1200Z and 1300Z-1600Z, Jul 18
WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone	1000Z-1400Z, Jul 18
CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	2000Z-2159Z, Jul 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 19
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 21
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jul 22
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 22
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 23
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 24 to 1200Z, Jul 25
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 28
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 28
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 30

August, 2010

RSGB RoPoCo 2	0700Z-0830Z, Aug 1
SARL HF Phone Contest	1300Z-1630Z, Aug 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 3
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 4
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 6
European HF Championship	0000Z-2359Z, Aug 7
TARA Grid Dip Shindig	0000Z-2400Z, Aug 7
10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 7 to 2359Z, Aug 8
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 7 to 1800Z, Aug 8
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 7 to 0600Z, Aug 8
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Aug 8
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Aug 11
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 11
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1100Z-1200Z, Aug 11 and 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 11 and 0300Z-0400Z, Aug 12
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Aug 12
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 13

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

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

AARC Field Day 2010

Lack of space prevents describing even a fraction of the event. The following is some of my impressions (with some help of Jeff, WBØM).

The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club Field Day 2010 at Standing Bear Lake was a team effort. Everyone did several tasks in setting up the site, making contacts, logging contacts, cooking food, public relations, and—after the event ended—dismantling the site and cleaning up.

Setting up the site was going pretty well except for a slight snag when erecting one of the antennas. Pat, KØCTU had devised a slingshot combined with a fishing reel to send a sinker tied to 15-pound test line over a likely looking tall tree. The plan was to tie twine to the fishing line in preparation of hauling up the long-wire antenna. After a couple of attempts, he succeeded in getting the fishing line over the tree, but it unfortunately snapped after the twine was attached and people began hauling it up. Eventually the problem was solved by disconnecting the reel and shooting the twine directly into the tree. Lesson learned: Use something heavier than 15-pound test.

There was one minor casualty: Rob, KCØOYT twisted his knee while carrying some equipment up hill and was pretty much confined to the camper for the remainder of the day. This was not a bad thing as the outdoor temperature was in the up 90s and the camper was air conditioned.

A few days after the event, I sent emails to Claudia, KCØSQZ and to Jeff, WBØM asking for information on who besides them did the initial preparations. Claudia initiated the project, but had to stop due to illness in the family. Jeff took over and provided me with the following information (slightly edited).

Bill, KCØSVZ

Hi Bill, I had the easy job. All I did was send a whole lot of e-mails asking people to help and getting commitments on bodies and equipment. I'm sure there were a few eyes rolling as I asked simple questions (hi). I made sure we had information and QSTs to pass out to anyone—which we did—and took care of the PR side.

But, you've overlooked one person: Steve, NØUP. He had already said he'd take care of the food. And the trailer. And finding and bring the club's gear. And probably a dozen other things I don't know about. Without the knowledge and commitment of Steve there would have been no real Field Day.

I just called and e-mailed the regulars to see if they planned on participating, which they did. I sincerely believe they would have shown up anyway and put on the Field Day themselves.

And Claudia did the most important part of the weekend and that was securing the site.

We had four people stop by and one of them has already ordered his Technician information. And we got some people on the air who haven't been on before (see *Field Day Log*, page 12, for details).

Those may seem like small victories, but I think they add to this Field Day being a success.

Jeff, WBØM

