

(February Haiti Trip continued from page 7.)

There is still some work to do. One of the lines has some kinks and will have to be replaced. We had hoped to seal all the bare aluminum on the new lines to prevent corrosion but the silicone was bad. As you can see from the picture it needs a new coat of paint. It's galvanized but a paint job would really help.



Closeup of the TV antenna.

Dave Blodget from Tallahassee was there with us for the first week. He took a lot of pictures and was a good extra hand on the ground crew. Dave and Joe flew back on Wednesday. I got busy with the new studio cameras. I had them all hooked up in a day or so. I also got the 4 little cameras I got from Back to the Bible in Lincoln hooked up in the sanctuary. They really work well.

The last full week I was there, there was an evening service every night. There were quite a few people there on Monday and we televised the service. Tuesday there were even more people and it was also televised. On Wednesday it was nearly a full house. We think the TV let people know there was something going on at church and they came. Thursday, also. On Friday the service was a 16th anniversary celebration for the women's choir group and lasted 2 to 3 hours and was quite joyous. It played to a packed house.

It's kind of hard to see the little cameras (below) but the cables are visible to three of them. The right picture is the control- and monitor-set for the cameras, also from Back to the Bible.



FM antenna, left. TV antenna, right. Access road, foreground.



Left: Camera locations w/closeup. Right: Control and monitor set.

(February Haiti Trip to be concluded next month.)

Ham Hum

Volume LXIII, Issue 4

April 2013

Digital Radio



Corby Krick KØSKW

Corby KØSKW doesn't like to talk, but he likes getting on the air, so digital radio was the optimum choice. For the March meeting, he discussed that subject and what he did to get into it.

While showing slides of his equipment, he described operating the station he set up for Field Day last year and some of the reasons for doing it; that is, it gave him the opportunity to get out of the shack, try new equipment, pick up new

operating skills, and have fun.

Corby pointed out that there are a number of digital communications modes, among them are RTTY, PSK31, MFSK16, and (of course) CW. He briefly described how they worked, their characteristics, and the advantages/disadvantages of each. In most cases, digital radio is similar to voice communications in that it's audio signals riding on an RF carrier. The interface is what's needed to convert the digital signals from the computer into sound that can be fed to the MIC input of the transmitter; and—in the reverse direction—convert the encoded sound from the receiver speaker/headphones to digital pulses that a computer can understand.

Corby went on to discuss the fundamentals of a digital station and what was needed to set one up. Basically, it consists of a transceiver with antenna, a computer, and an interface (such as a Terminal Node Controller) to convert data to sound and back; plus key the transmitter when needed. He mentioned that a couple of popular hardware interfaces were SignalLink from Tigertronics (<http://www.tigertronics.com/>) and RIGblaster from West Mountain Radio (<http://www.westmountainradio.com/>).

(Digital Radio continued on page 3.)



April Meeting: Field Day Logging & Procedures



This month, Adam KDØMMG and Tomas NW7US will discuss logging and procedures used on Field Day. See *Veep Speaks* on page 3 for details. Be sure to attend.

Friday, April 12th, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring Streets, Omaha, NE.

HAM HUM is the official newsletter of the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc. in Omaha, Nebraska. It is printed monthly and is distributed to members of the club, local disaster officials, local electronics outlets, and editors of other ham radio newsletters.

Articles about activities of members are solicited. The subject matter must be of general interest to radio amateurs and be understandable to a significant portion of the membership. No payment will be made to contributors and submissions will be subject to the usual editorial review. Articles containing statements that could be construed as libel or slander will not be accepted. No guarantee can be made that an accepted article will be published by a certain date. Send your contributions to Ham Hum, P.O. Box 24551, Omaha, NE 68124-0551 or email hamhum@aksarbenarc.org. Please contact the editor for permission to reprint anything appearing in the Ham Hum.

Club Officers & Board Members

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Vice President	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	402-598-1521	akavan@gmail.com
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2013 2014 Director	Mitch Saure	WBØGBI	402-455-6205	skyking195@aol.com
2013 Director	Barb Westcott	KCØHLB	402-510-0308	barbwestcott@cox.net
Immediate Past President	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net

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Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7774	wa0zqg@yahoo.com
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Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net
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Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Club Callsign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net

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EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		
Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
NE Section Manager	Art Zyguelbaum	KØAIZ	402-421-0839	K0AIZ@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	402-690-7965	ke0xq@cox.net

Address Change?

If you've changed your mailing address, or would prefer to receive the *Ham Hum* via email, please contact Mary NØTRK (Membership) or Bill KCØSVZ (Publications) with your new information.

AARC on the Web

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aksarbenarc>

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

Club Calendar

Apr 10	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
Apr 12	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
Apr 13	8:00 AM MS Walk.
Apr 13	11:00 AM HBQRP, Bredeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.
Apr 17	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Apr 18	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
Apr 20	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Apr 22	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, NE.
Apr 25	11:00 AM QCWA Meeting. Old Country Buffet, 14525 W. Center Rd., Omaha, NE.
Apr 25	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Apr 25	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16 th , Council Bluffs, IA.
May 8	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
May 10	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
May 11	11:00 AM HBQRP, Bredeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.
May 11	1:00 PM BARC VE Session, 11111 S. 84th St., Papillion, NE.
May 15	6:00 PM Field Day meeting, Perkins, Omaha, NE.
May 15	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
May 16	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE
May 17	State track meet.
May 18	State track meet.
May 18	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
May 23	11:00 AM QCWA Meeting. Old Country Buffet, 14525 W. Center Rd., Omaha, NE.
May 23	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
May 23	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16 th , Council Bluffs, IA.
May 27	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, NE.
May 28	6:30 PM AARC VE Session, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.
Jun 22	Field Day
Jun 23	Field Day
Sep 7	AARC Flea-esta. Sarpy County Fairgrounds, Springfield, NE.

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

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The next AARC Board Meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2013, 6:30 PM at the Village Inn on 78th and Dodge Streets. Unless noted otherwise, future Board meetings will occur at that time and location on the fourth Monday of the month. For any changes to this schedule, check for an announcement at the next Club meeting, or on the AARC web page at <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>.

You may be a ham radio operator if... You have intentionally scared Non-Hams with the word "RADIATION"!

Club Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2013

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with introductions by name and call followed by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 28 attendees.

Officers and Board members present included: Tomas, NW7US; Adam, KDØMMG; Mary, NØTRK; Bill, WA9ASD; Dave, NØJSB and Mitch, WBØGBI.

Secretary's Report - A motion was made by Norm, WAØJYD, seconded by Pat, KØCTU, to accept the February club meeting minutes as published in Ham Hum. There were no corrections required and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Dave, NØJSB - Dave reported that there were deposits of \$284 from dues payments. There were payments totaling \$39 including \$23 for the Club incorporation registration fee, \$13 for the NØKVA trailer registration and \$3 for bank fees. The balance of all accounts is \$21,987.

President's Report - Tomas, NW7US - Tomas elaborated in making this year's Field Day more than just some of the Club members going out to make some contacts. He would like to see everyone in the Club participate; whether it be for set-up, operating, experimentation with antennas and an overall learning experience. This can include, CW operators, QRP fans, digital enthusiasts and all other areas of our hobby. Additionally, he wants to invite the general public including Scouts, makers and other organizations and groups to come out to see what we can do and are doing. He will be issuing press releases so that we are always in front of the media to gain coverage and to stir up interest in Field Day, our Club and our hobby.

Vice President's Report - Adam, KDØMMG - The program for tonight's meeting will be by Corby, KØSKW on last year's digital experience at Field Day and some of the digital modes and methods available.

Community Events - Pat, KØCTU - The annual MS Walk will be April 13 and we need volunteers for that.

The State Track Meet will be May 17 and 18 and volunteers for that need to contact Pat.

ARES - Mary, NØTRK for Steve, NØUP - There will be a documentary film titled "Devil Wind" on the 1913 tornado that struck Omaha presented on NETV on March 22. There will also be a viewing of that film at the EOC that night with popcorn provided. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On March 23 the annual Douglas County Siren Test will be held and volunteers are needed to verify proper siren operation at all locations in the county. On March 26 there will be Storm Spotter Training at Boys Town.

SATERN - Corby, KØSKW reported that there are no updates.

Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK - Pay your dues and join the Club.

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

Contest Calendar

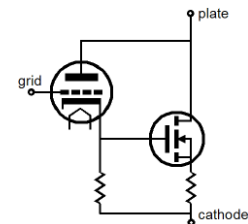
April 2013

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 10
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 10 & 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 11
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 10
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 12
Montana QSO Party	0000Z, Apr 13 to 2400Z, Apr 14
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 13 to 1300Z, Apr 14
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Apr 13 to 2400Z, Apr 14
New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 13 to 0200Z, Apr 14
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 13
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 13 to 2359Z, Apr 14
Hungarian Straight Key Contest	1500Z-1700Z, Apr 14
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Apr 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 18
Holyland DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 19 to 2100Z, Apr 20
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 20
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 20
CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 20 to 2359Z, Apr 21
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 20
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 20 to 0400Z, Apr 21
North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 20 to 1800Z, Apr 21
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 20 to 1800Z, Apr 21
Field Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Apr 20
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 20 to 0500Z, Apr 21 & 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 21
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 24
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 24 & 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 25
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 26
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 27 to 2359Z, Apr 28
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 27 to 1200Z, Apr 28
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 27 to 1259Z, Apr 28
QRP to the Field	1500Z, Apr 27 to 0300Z, Apr 28
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 27 to 2159Z, Apr 28
BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2100Z, Apr 28

May 2013

AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 3
Araucaria VHF Contest	0000Z, May 4 to 1600Z, May 5
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 4 to 2359Z, May 5
ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 4 to 1159Z, May 5
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 4 to 0700Z, May 5
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 4 to 0400Z, May 5
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 4 to 2400Z, May 5
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, May 6

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



Saturday Night Coffee

It was only a small group that got together that night at Perkins: Pat KØCTU, Bill KCØSVZ, Mary NØTRK, Steve NØUP, and John WBØCMC. The sparse turnout was no doubt due the ARRL hamfest in Lincoln earlier that day; people were either tired from the trip or busy playing with their new toys purchased from the flea market.

While dining on éclairs, caviar, French fries, and peppered pancakes, we discussed many interesting topics: the tornado of 1975, radar systems, antenna tower height, microwaving bananas, and the Field Day police. Toward the end of the evening a fistfight broke out when the waiter asked W1APR if he wanted a box for his leftovers and he took it as a challenge. The altercation quickly escalated to other tables until it was a full-fledged brawl with the restaurant staff, other customers, and the Omaha SWAT team on one side and AARC members brandishing Wouff Hongs on the other. After much chair smashing, window breaking, and the occasional gunshot, order was restored and everyone went back to their meals. Later, as we left the building, we all agreed that it had been a fun-filled evening.

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

Bill KCØSVZ

Want Ads

For Sale: Ground Rods Five copper plated steel ground rods. Ten feet long and 5/8" diameter. \$20 total for all five with all proceeds to go to the USS Hazard Radio funding. Contact Marvin AEØEG at the next AARC meeting or email AEØEG@arrl.net.

Wanted: Linksys Router Did you upgrade your router? Still have your old one in the closet? I am looking for Wireless Linksys Router Models WRT54G (version 1 – 4), WRT54GS (version 1- 4), and WRT54GL (any version). If you aren't sure of the version, email me the first 4 characters of the serial number and I can tell you if I can use it. This is for a ham radio project. Willing to pay \$10 for complete and working units, Will still take them off your hands if they aren't working. Contact: Mary NØTRK at the next AARC meeting, or email n0trk@arrl.net

MISCELLANEOUS

Gerald WBØRUR reports that **Heath Company** is once again back in business! For details, see the announcement at <http://tinyurl.com/dyp5t3b>.

Sean ACØVD wrote that ham-related humor can be found at **The Noise Blankers** (<http://www.noiseblankers.com/>).

The FCC is considering reallocating frequencies 3.525-3.600 MHz to SSTV using Morse code. Specifications such as sync, white level, and color will be assigned certain letters of the alphabet while other letters will represent different intensity levels. Exact values are still being tested. Spokesperson Poisson d'Avril, W1APR, stated that "...though most images will be transmitted and received with the help of signal processing equipment, the fact that it's in Morse code will permit experienced hams to 'see' the image without the aid of decoder electronics."

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 4.)

Education Committee - Mary, NØTRK - We are looking for a time and there will probably be a class starting in June.

The Bellevue club will be running a class in April.

Ham Hum - Bill, KCØSVZ - Bill reported that there were no significant problems with printing this month's *Ham Hum*.

Web Site - Mary, NØTRK - At this point, Tomas announced that the Club has received a wealth of information for possible inclusion on the Club web site and meeting programs and *Ham Hum* articles. Bill, WA9ASD explained that the Club is a member of AMSAT. AMSAT states that they will issue 6 newsletters each year and distribute them to members. In 2012 AMSAT only published one newsletter. To compensate the members, they issued a CD of all AMSAT Annual Conference proceedings from 1986 through 2012. The CD the club received contained the text of all conference presentations, slide shows, printed materials, and some audio files. These include proposal, design, construction, testing, launch, operation, and usage of most of the amateur satellites for the last 25 years. There are also presentations on user experiences with the satellites and station technical information. The 1986 proceedings are a 186 page text file in PDF format. The 2012 proceedings files include 23 papers with every slide presentation, audio file and a movie. This CD will be made available on loan to interested club members.

Repeater Committee - John, WBØCMC - It's working.

Field Day - Rob, AI7Q - Field Day is June 22 and 23 at the same great site as last year at 156th Street and Maple between the 911 center and the Douglas County Crime Lab. Last year we operated 8 Alpha and there are 7 stations planned for this year including CW and digital stations. We need shack captains. We want everyone in the club to participate and get involved. This doesn't mean you have to be there for 24 hours straight - there are many ways to get out there and help out. Tomas then displayed samples of the certificates that will be available to those who join in the fun. Sign up on the Club's web site.

QSL and Technical Committee - Eddy, KØIL - No report.

Courtesy Committee - KEØXQ - No activity.

Trailer Committee - Mary, NØTRK - We need to meet. The N6KVA trailer should be available for Field Day and it will be air conditioned.

Equipment Committee - Mary, NØTRK - Need to meet.

Flea-Esta - Pat, KØCTU - The Flea-Esta is planned for September 7, 2013 at the Sarpy County Fairgrounds. We will have a sign-up sheet at the Lincoln hamfest for people who want a reminder sent just before the Flea-Esta.

Old Business - none

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 6.)

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 5.)

New Business - none

Announcements

- Bill, KEØXQ announced that the local chapter of the QCWA meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at the Old Country Buffet at 11 AM. At the last meeting there were 53 people at the meeting.
- The QCWA has a weekly net on 147.36 every Tuesday at 7 PM.
- It was reported that individuals causing interference on 14.313 MHz and 14.312 MHz were fined \$10,000 by the FCC in recent action.
- On April 6 the Central Plains Weather Symposium will be held.
- There is a 6 meter net every Tuesday night at 8 PM on 50.200 MHz, USB.
- The next VE exam session will be held March 26 at 6:30 PM at the Red Cross in Omaha.
- Interest was expressed in forming groups interested in studying for the Extra Class license and a CW practice group.

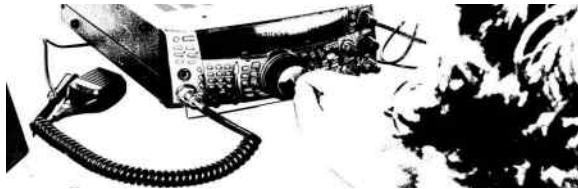
At this point Tomas presented a 10 minute video produced in Canada that illustrates the diversity of interests of hams. The video was produced by VE2CWQ and Tomas can make copies available for interested members.

The door prize drawing will be after the break, before the program. Get your tickets now.

Rollie, ABØNN reported that the door prizes for tonight include a 24 hour clock and a very nice tool kit. Also available are the Brown Bag Door Prize and the dreaded Mr. Reeh Door Prize. All tickets purchased throughout the year are retained for the drawings at the December meeting. Winners must be present to win.

At 7:53 PM a motion was made by John, WBØCMC seconded by Norm, WAØJYD to end the meeting. Passed by unanimous vote.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC



Charles E. Rodgers, WØQQN, Silent Key

Long-time AARC member Charles Rodgers, WØQQN, passed away on March 10, 2013 at age 92. A retired Western Electric employee and World War II veteran, Charlie served as manager of the WØ QSL Bureau from the mid 70s to the early 90s. He had many friends both in and outside of the amateur community and will be missed.

February Haiti Trip

John Gebuhr, WBØCMC

[Editor's Note: This is Part 1 of a two-part article on John's latest trip to Gonaives, Haiti, where he did volunteer work upgrading the TV and FM stations belonging to Pastor Revenel Benoit's Lutheran Church.]



Generator just prior to unloading.

Joe Francis, my tower man, and I left Omaha on the 6th of February. The flights to Port-au-Prince were uneventful, on time, and long. We were picked up at the airport and driven to the guest house, arriving at around 7:30 or 8 in the evening. Thursday morning we found out that one of the boys from the shelter had been caught stealing some wire and had been arrested and thrown in jail. Revenel had to go get him out, which took most of the day.

We finally got up to the transmitter site on Friday. The generator was on site but needed to be set in place. Joe went up the tower to do a close inspection. There was still much to do on the antenna. It took much of the day to get it off the truck and positioned where it finally needed to be.

On Saturday Joe started to finish the work "up top" and I started hooking up the generator and change-over switch. By the end of the day the generator was ready to go. We had to put oil, water, and fuel in it. There wasn't quite enough oil on hand, so it had to wait for another day to start. When we did start it, the battery didn't have enough charge to do it. It had sat since shipping in April til this February. Car batteries have a pretty good self-discharge rate, so not surprising that it was a bit weak. We took the battery out of the vehicle and it started right up.



Generator finally in place and hooked up.

While I was hooking up the generator, Joe was finishing on the tower. After he got down on the ground I turned on the generator and then the transmitter. The transmitter was not happy and promptly shut itself off. I switched to the old RCA transmitter since I knew it would take a bad antenna. It did show there was more work to be done.

After some consulting, Joe went back up to make some better connections on the elements.

On retesting, there was still a problem. I should have noticed it before but some of the lines were going to the wrong elements. Joe went back up and re-did them finishing just before sunset on Tuesday, the day before he was to fly back to Omaha. The antenna tested good and we put the new transmitter back on. It was now happy, so to speak.

(February Haiti Trip continued on page 12.)