

2009 Make-A-Wish Bike Ride

Sunday, September 27, 2009, from 6:00am until about 3:00pm

Fellow Hams:

Amateur Radio operators are needed to staff water stops, SAG vehicles, bike repair vehicles, medical support vehicles, and last rider vehicles on the route. Specific duties for each will be provided at a later date. Non-amateurs with EMT training are also encouraged to volunteer, as we can pair them with amateur radio operators to patrol the route to keep an eye on everyone. For simplicity, I will try to reassign volunteers to the same assignments as last year.

There will be a pancake breakfast at the Percival, IA fire station starting at 6:00am, and they serve until they run out of food or no one is in line. Last year's cost was \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. Percival, IA is located at Interstate 29 exit #15.

If you don't come for breakfast, please be at the Percival fire station no later than 7:00am, so I can brief you in on any last minute details, and allow you to get out on the route before the ride starts. Please be on time. Talk-in will be on 146.700- or 442.100+. When you arrive please park directly across the street from the fire station, and do not block the drive ways of the residents. Bike riders will have to park further north of the fire station.

Required resources will include a dual-band mobile radio and suitable antenna. Hand held dual band radios may also prove useful depending upon your assignment, and proximity to the repeaters. I will be contacting local repeater operators along the route for permission to use their repeaters. We will also have a designated simplex frequency to use as needed. If you do not have dual-band radios, 2 meter radios will work.

If you have a GMRS/FRS radio, you may want to consider bringing it with you. The riders will be encouraged to use channel 1 (without any PL tones) should they need help.

If you would like to volunteer, or want more information, please contact me. I would prefer to use E-mail because it makes it a lot easier to keep everyone informed on our status. I realize that not everyone has e-mail so if we have to use phones, we will. You might also use a friend who has e-mail as a relay.

If you can participate, contact George Bellairs KBØZZT, and include your T-Shirt size, preferred assignment, phone number, and times you will be available.

Thank you!

George Bellairs KBØZZT
E-Mail: kb0zzt@usa.net
(402) 291-0960 (home)
(402) 677-2330 (cell)

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

Volume LIX, Issue 8

August 2009

OMMRS Drill

It is time for the pre-air show drill at Offutt AFB (called the MARE) and this event generally activates OMMRS and this means we need volunteers to staff the hospitals during the drill. The exercise starts about 9:00 on Saturday August 15 so we want you on site by about 8:45. Net will open at 8:00 on 146.940. If you want to participate please go to the following link <http://tinyurl.com/ommrs-2009>

and fill out the form. This then emails me the information. We need hams for various duties at the Douglas county EOC, including Net control The following hospitals will be playing.

- o Methodist
- o Children's
- o Mercy
- o Immanuel
- o Midlands
- o Lakeside
- o Bergan Mercy
- o Creighton
- o The University Medical Center
- o Douglas County Health Center

Mary Joseph, NØTRK

402-431-2HAM

OMMRS Recruiting & Training Committee Co-Chair

OMMRS Communications Subcommittee

The AK-SAR-BEN ARC has two 30 foot (approximate) towers that are for sale. These are the Motorola 30 series that would include three 10' sections, a top section and rotor plate. They are being offered for sale to make room for easier to erect antenna supports.

The Motorola 30 tower is similar to Rohn 25. These are the towers that have been used for AARC Field Days up until a couple of years ago.

There has not been a price set as of this issue of the Ham Hum. Interested parties should contact Corby KØSKW, or a member of the board of directors.

The AK-SAR-BEN ARC is also looking for a low-profile (under 16' retracted) crank up tower. Contact Steve, NØUP for more information.

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 (2009)	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net
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2008-2009 Board (Treasurer)	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
2008-2009 Board	Dan Olsen	KD7GSW		
2008-2009 Board	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
2009-2010 Board (Secretary)	Greg Carlson	N7JOD	402-305-2009	revgreg1@gmail.com
2009-2010 Board	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	AE0EG@arrl.net

Standing Committee Chairs

Programs	Dick Jones	N6KVA		n6kva@arrl.net
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Other Contacts

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EC Douglas County	Darwin Piatt	W9HZC	402-991-0412	w9hzc@cox.net
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		

Ham Hum Delivery

If you would like the Ham Hum delivered electronically by email, please let NØUP n0up@cox.net know. We will make sure your hum arrives when the mailed hum would arrive. This is an opt-out of receiving the Hum by mail only. If you do not request an emailed copy, you will continue to receive it by postal mail. Ed.

Contest Calendar

August 2009

North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 15 to 0600Z, Aug 16
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 15 to 0200Z, Aug 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 17
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 23
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 29 to 1159Z, Aug 30
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 29 to 1200Z, Aug 30
SARL HF CW Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Aug 30

September 2009

All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 5 to 2400Z, Sep 6
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 5
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13
SARL VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z, Sep 18 to 1000Z, Sep 20
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 19 to 2400 local, Sep 20
SRT HF Contest SSB	1300Z, Sep 19 to 1300Z, Sep 20
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 19 to 2400Z, Sep 20
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 26 to 2000Z, Sep 27
QRP Homebrewer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 28

Details check the following web site the week prior to the contest.

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

Upcoming Events

August 14	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 6:00 PM Red Cross
August 14	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross
August 15	OMMRS/Offutt AFB Drill
August 29 & 30	Offutt AFB Air Show
September 11	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 6:00 PM Red Cross
September 11	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross
September 20	Boyer Valley ARC flea market, 8:00 to Noon, Mondamin, Iowa
September 26	River City Round Up Parade
September 27	Make-A-Wish Bike Ride
September 27	Lincoln ARC Auction, 10:30 to 3:00 Scottish Rite Temple (16 th & L), Lincoln NE
September 29	HDXA & AARC VE Test Session, 6:30 PM, Red Cross
October 3	AARC Hamfest
October 10	Market-To-Market Foot Race

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2009

Roll Call

[x] Corby–KØSKW [x] Greg–WØAAI [] Jim – KC0SHZ
[] Dan–KD7GSW [x] Brian–KMØY [] Dick, - N6KVA
[] Doug – NGØK [x] Marvin–AEØEG [x] Greg – N7JOD

The meeting was called to order at 6:12pm. The May meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.

President – Corby – KØSKW

Working through processes for club discounts with ARRL

Vice President/Programs – Dick – N6KVA

Program tonight is Joe, K0NEB regarding the Dayton Hamvention

Treasurer - Brian Zdan - KMØY

Checking	1942.03	
MM Acct	5026.07	3.65 interest
Repeater	1132.12	
Repeater CD	2170.16	
CD	15,973.08	
Total	26,243.56	

Unfinished Business

- Hamfest- Preference of Saturday rather than Sunday. October 3rd the preferred day. Brian, KMØY will get back to us. Pancake breakfast again.
- Field Day - Claudia, KC0SQX We will meet at Walnut Creek. Steve's smoker again? OMMRS equipment? Need to determine hours. Someone to stay over.

Public Service – Jim – KCØSHZ

No report

Publications – Steve – NØUP

No report

New Business – Corby – KØSKW

Discussion of the new D-Star club and Aksarben ARC's relationship to it ensued. (sponsorship of it so they can claim our 501c3 status).

Other

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Friday, July 10, at 6:00pm. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

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

Club Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2009

The meeting started at 7:38 pm with approximately 25 in attendance.

President's Report – Corby, KØSKW

Club minutes were approved as read.

Vice President's Report and Programs – Dick, N6KVA

The program tonight is Joe, N0NEB regarding the Dayton Hamvention

Treasurer – Brian Zdan - KMØY

Checking	1,942.03	
MM Acct	5,026.07	3.65 interest
Repeater	1,132.12	
Repeater CD	2,170.16	
CD	15,973.08	
Total	26,243.56	

Unfinished Business

New Business

- Getting back to breakfasts at 90th and Center at 8am on the 1st Saturday of the month
- Dinner on the third Saturday at 108th and L at Perkins

Public Service – Pat, KØCTU – NE State Track Meet at Burke HS went well.

Visited with the meet director to fill him in on ham radio work. The met committee bought an antenna for future use. Many people with good coverage. July 11-12 (Sat-Sun) we will help with the bicycle race fundraiser for UNMC cancer research. Also, OMMERS emergency prep day 15 August.

Publications - Steve, NØUP – Ham Hum out. Online database: You can change your information online.

Repeater - John – working well - took crystal filter out for better sensitivity

Education – Mary NØTRK – Technician classes will be Thursdays of July at Methodist Hospital in the Prairie Room, 6:30pm. Also contact Mary or Steve, NØUP regarding your personal info. Online ability for update coming. Info packets after get license.

Membership – Mary, NØTRK – VOTED to approve the following as new member: KD4, Rick

Field Day – Claudia, KCØSQX We will go to Walnut Creek. Arrangements are made there. Camping available. Setup at 9am. Friday night potluck. OMMRS equipment available.

Other

- VE exam 26th May at 6:30pm tomorrow at 11am the QRP club in Ashland
- Satern Working Group meets at Salvation Army 10 am - 16 May with 146.58 talk in.
- Ships at Sea day is June 6 at Freedom Park. All hams welcome. See Mary, NØTRK or Greg, N7JOD
- Fall Hamfest is Saturday, October 3rd. More info coming.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm for coffee at Perkin's on 108th and L

Greg Carlson, N7JOD, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary

Stuart's First QSO

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One of the great things about Field Day are the stories. Every year, I add a story or two to my repertoire. This year is no exception.

My best story from Field Day 2009 starts about 1:30 pm on Saturday. I was at my post at the public information table/GOTA station. We had been ready to rock and roll for at least a half hour, so a group of us were just sitting around chewing the fat when 13-year-old Stuart and his mother walked up to the table.

Her son was a little on the shy side, so his mother explained that Stuart had seen a listing of our Field Day site on the Internet and had asked her to bring him out to see us. She mentioned that Stuart had been listening to ham radio operators on his little Yaesu handheld scanner for several years and was very excited to actually meet some ham radio operators and see ham radio in action.

Not only that, she said that he had taught himself Morse Code. A kid after my own heart! I quickly volunteered to give them a tour of our Field Day site. First, I showed him our VHF/UHF station, and he seemed really impressed with the five single-band radios.

Next, I took him into the 40m phone station. I asked how fast he could copy Morse Code, and he said 30 words per minute. I cranked the receiver down into the CW portion of the band, and sure enough, he could copy anything that I tuned in.

At this point, it was still only 1:45 pm, so I told him, "Let's go over to one of the CW stations, and we'll see if we can make a contact." We marched over to the CW #2 station, and after getting clearance from the station captain, I tuned around for a clear frequency, then called CQ. Immediately, N5VV, replied.

At this point, Stuart was so excited, he was shaking a little bit. Since the contest was just about ready to start, I kept the contact short, but that didn't matter. Stuart had finally gotten to see ham radio in action.

Stuart's mother then inquired about taking the test. I explained that our Volunteer Examiners give the test every second Saturday of the month and gave her the URL of our website. She said that Stuart had been studying and was ready to take the test.

Unfortunately, they had to leave at that point. I told Stuart's mother that we'd be there through 2pm Sunday and to come back any time. She said that they'd definitely be back the next day.

Stuart Makes His First Contact

Stuart and his mother returned about 1:30 pm on Sunday. He wanted to see the VHF/UHF station again, so that was our first stop. He took a couple of photos of the setup, and then I suggested we go over to the GOTA station. When we first got there, someone was at the mike, but

shortly afterwards, they got up, and Stuart and I took the controls.

When we first sat down, I made a few contacts using my call to show him how to use the paddle. I noted that holding the levers down produces a series of dits or dahs, and that by tapping the other lever while holding down the first, you can produce a dit between dahs or a dah between dits.

Then, I asked him if he'd like to try it. He said yes, so just to see how it would go, I tuned up to above 7100 kHz. There was no activity up there, so I set the keyer speed to 15 wpm and told him to send my callsign a few times. He reached over with his left hand and sent it perfectly. Now, remember, this is someone who'd never touched a paddle of any kind before. Not only that, he even sent the K (dah-di-dah) iambically! That is to say that he held the dah paddle while tapping the dit paddle to slip in a dit between the two dahs.

Then, I asked if he'd like to make some contacts. He said yes, so I said, "Let's switch seats." We switched seats, and I said, "OK, tune around a little and find a strong station calling CQ." We found K2ZR, and I coached him a little on how to reply. "Now, remember," I said, "we're going to use the W8PGW callsign." When I gave him the nod to send, he reached over with his RIGHT hand and sent W8PGW perfectly! When K2ZR replied with our call and the exchange, I coached him to reply with "4A MI." Not only did he do that, but he slipped in a "R" to denote that we'd copied the exchange. When K2ZR replied with a "TU," I showed him how to log the contact.

That's all the coaching I needed to do. After the first contact, I said, "OK. Now, tune around for another station calling CQ, and we'll make another contact." He was off to the races. As soon as he made a contact, he jumped up to type it into the log. His arms weren't long enough to reach the computer from where he was seated.

When we started, the keyer speed was set to 15 wpm. After a couple of contacts, I asked if he might want to send faster. When he said OK, I bumped it up to 18 wpm. After a few QSOs with only a couple of mistakes, he asked if we could go faster, so I set it at 20 wpm. Again, only a couple of mistakes, so we bumped it up to 22 wpm. There, he started making more mistakes, but let me repeat, he never touched any kind of key before in his life. I have no doubt that with a little practice, he could easily do 30 wpm.

Overall, he made 12 contacts in the 21 minutes he operated the station. Not a bad rate for someone who'd never sent a character of Morse Code in his life, don't you think?

Unfortunately, Stuart was not able to take the test at our July VE session as he was at Boy Scout camp. Come the second week of August, though, he'll be a ham. He even has a vanity callsign picked out for himself. Listen for him--in the CW bands, of course.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the station manager for WA2HOM, the ham radio station at Ann Arbor's Hands-On Museum, and the ARRL MI Section's Training Manager. You can read more about his adventures in ham radio by going to www.kb6nu.com.