

The AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

PO Box 24551

Omaha, NE 68124-0551

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ARES GROUPS ARE PRESSED INTO SERVICE

(Written by Mary Joseph, N0TRK)

Members of the Midlands Douglas County) Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Sarpy County Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Cass County Amateur Radio Emergency Service were called into service to provide reliable backup communications to the Nebraska Army National Guard during their clean-up efforts in the wake of the October 1997 snowstorm.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is supplying backup communications to all current cleanup missions in Douglas, Sarpy and Cass Counties and plans support as necessary throughout the week as clean up missions spread into other counties.

During the clean-up effort, The Army National Guard is using ARES support to relay progress reports, equipment requirements, logistics information and health and welfare information of the soldiers in the field. The blending of Army National Guard radios, cellular phones and amateur radio has provided the guard with reliable communications throughout the mission areas.

The city of Ralston also requested ARES support during their volunteer clean-up day on Saturday November 1. Several ham radio operators were placed with the clean-up crews allowing city officials to track the location of the crews and their progress.

continued...page 12

Time to Renew.... Renewal form in on back cover. Rates are on page 2.



These three beauties are the top door prizes at this year's annual business meeting on December 12. See page 6 for details.



Next Club Meeting: December 12, 1997

7:30 PM RED CROSS BUILDING

2912 S. 80th Ave. (80th and Spring St.)

POTLUCK and Door Prizes (see page 6)

Talk In 146.94(-)

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HAM HUM is the official organ of the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc. in Omaha, Nebraska. It is printed monthly **except August** and is distributed to members of the club, local disaster officials, local electronics outlets, and other editors of ham radio newsletters. Articles about activities of members are solicited. Permission is granted to any other publication to reprint items appearing here, providing that complete source credit is copied including previous print source.

The club owns and operates repeaters KØUSA on 146.94 (-) and 224.94(-).

1997 Executive Board

Club Officers

President.....	Rick Graham	AAØH	493-2099	
aa0h@probe.net				
Vice President ...	Steve Dowse	NØSXZ	330-8630	
n0sxz@probe.net				
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k9rz@probe.net				
Treasurer	Pat Durbin	KD4UXU	554-0261	
LongDistance@postoffice.worldnet.att.net				
Immediate Past				
President	Ed Edwards	KØIL	496-3415	
EEDWARDS@opd.com				
Carl Oellerich.....	KGØSY		457-5479	(1997)
Jeff Reynolds.....	KAØTKU		333-0532	(1997)
Pat Joseph.....	NØHPP		492-9156	(1997-8)
Linda Newman	KBØTGY		498-0077	(1997-8)
Bill Newman.....	KBØTGZ		498-0077	(1997-8)
Darwin Piatt	WB5HZH		571-3851	(1997-8)
WB5HZH@juno.com				

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Midwest Vice-Director -	Bruce Frahm	KØBJ	
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Asst. Section Mgrs. -	Tom Michaelson	NØMT	423-1984
	Skip Miller	WØKVM	466-5513
Section Em. Coord. -	Jim Peterson	KFØFO	558-0643
EC (Douglas County) -	Ken Noel	AJØA	592-2338
EC (Sarpy County) -	Ron Clark	NØPOM	291-6774
Official Observers -	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	553-5296
	WBØCMC@probe.net		
	Carl Quijas	WBØTUE	733-8304
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Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Home page...

<http://www.probe.net/~aarc>

Membership Information

Normal Annual membership dues are \$20 annually. Club members who renew their ARRL membership through the club will be aiding the club since a portion of their renewal is donated to the club by the ARRL.

Send all renewals to AARC Treasurer

PO Box 24551

Omaha, NE 68124-0551

Regular Member \$20.00 /year

Spouse Member \$ 4.00 /year

Student Member \$ 8.00 /year

Minor Dependent \$ 4.00 /year



HAM HUM

December 1997

Prez Sez:

by Rick Graham, AAØH

The time has come for me to write my last column as President of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club. It has been a busy year, in and out of the club, and it went fast.

Looking back, we had a fantastic Field Day, with great scores. We had some interesting and informative programs at the meetings, and have had a full year "back home" at the Red Cross. After being "homeless" for a couple of years, it's great to be back. We had a lot of Public Service, including the callout to assist the National Guard during the aftermath of the October snowstorm. We also gained a bunch of new members this year, many of them new to the Omaha area.

In December, we have the North Pole Net yet to do. This one can be a lot of fun, and takes more than a few operators to pull it off. Contact Pat, NØHPP if you would like to get involved.

Remember, this is your club, and your vote counts. Come on out to the December meeting, Dan has THREE ht's, along with a bunch of other great door prizes. The food has been great the last couple years, so the "potluck" will be repeated again this year. If you cannot come, try to get your proxy to someone who is going to attend.

See you at the meeting!

73,

Rick



Birthday List For December

FirstName	LastName	CallSign	Dick	Gillette	WAØZDQ	Donna	Noel	KBØLHS
John	Amdor	KD6MXL	Richard	Graham	AAØH	Richard	Parry	WØIP
Ronald	Clark	NØPOM	Gerald	Gross	WA6POZ	Wayne	Paulson	NØGGI
Joseph	Connell	WØLHZ	Harry	Keller	WBØPDF	Jack	Powley	WAØSAQ
William	Duffy	KAØVXK	John	Klingman	WNØCKX	Robert	Rennolet	WØAEX
Joe	Foster	WØWRE	Rob	Matthews	N9IDY	Arlene	Sanford	KAØTKW
Michael	Gallagher	K8QBW	Paul	May	WDØHRG	David	Skerritt	NØYFY
			Steve	May	WAØASM	Phillip	Trainer	WBØWYE
			Charles	Michel	KØQVL	Jerry	Wasserman	WBØCKR
			Charles	Milazzo	KP4MD	Brian	Zdan	KMØY
			John	Nixon	KBØYKK	Sandra	Zdan	NØGWX

The following have celebrated their birthdays sometime during the year, but our database does not have their birthdate. Most of this reason is that the FCC does not provide birthdates in their publically available database, so unless our membership chairperson (Mary Joseph, NØTRK) is notified, we cannot announce your birth month in an accurate fashion.

We hope that all did, in fact, have a happy birthday, whenever it may have been or will be, or is,,, or whatever.. -ZZQ

Birthday List For Those

with no Birthdate on Roster

FirstName	LastName	CallSign	Barbara	Lentz	KBØPXC	Raymond	Start	WØWZJ
Douglas	Halbert	KØBOY	Robert	Hopkins	KB5GQC	Michael	White	KCØAUJ
David	Hamilton	NØCLW	Darwin	Piatt	WB5HZH	Todd	Gift	WBØCXK
Sandra	Hamilton	NØCLQ	Joel	Peterson	KEØMX	Darrel	Swenson	KBØAWB
Robert	Hanselman	NØYCL	David	Quigley	ABØDJ	Joanne	Wearne	KCØAXH
Virgil	Wamsat	KBØBW	John	Gast	KBØCOE	Paul	Schleck	K3FU
Thomas	Martin	KØAMD	David	Putman	KA8NFN	Bill	Breeden	ABØFX
			David	Neylon	KB4ANV	Erik	Swanson	KCØBJE
			James	Wolfe	KAØMHM	Mark	Fitzgerald	KCØASN
			Michael	Moorehead	KM4JG	Sonya	Fitzgerald	KCØAUL
			Bill	Bates	KBØYOO	Dave	Zorko	NØZIA



BOARD MINUTES:

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors - Aksarben Amateur Radio Club - November 1997

The November 5, 1997 meeting of the Aksarben ARC board of Directors was held at the Red Cross Emergency Services Building at 80th Avenue and Spring Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM with AAØH presiding.

The following AARC board members were in attendance: Rick Graham - AAØH, Steve Dowse - NØSXZ, Carl Oellerich - KGØSY, Darwin Platt - WB5HZH, Eddie Edwards - KØIL, Linda Newman - KBØTGY, Bill Newman - KBØTGZ, Pat Joseph - NØHPP, Pat Durbin - KD4UXU, Bill Jackson - K9RZ.

The following visitors were in attendance: Mary Joseph - NØTRK, Dave Kline - WJØZ, Todd LeMense KKØDX, Jim Pate, KBØUKM.

Approval of the minutes of the October 7, 1997 meeting of the Board of Directors was deferred until the December board meeting as the minutes were not available.

Presidents Report: AAØH indicated he is looking for a new Public Relations Chairman as Rob, N9IDY has left the area.

Vice Presidents Report: November Program - Rick, AAØH will present some video shot during the ARES activation involving clean-up operations following the October snow storm.

Treasurer's Report: KD4UXU presented the report for October. AAØH entertained a motion to approve the report as presented. Moved by KGØSY, second by NØHPP. The report was approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

ARES: ARES is activating daily in support of the Nebraska National Guard activation during the post storm clean-up.

Education: NØTRK reported that due to the heavy involvement in ARES activities, the education committee has delayed the start of the no-code class.

Flea Market: WJØZ reported that the Club has received payment from the ARRL for our portion of book sales at the Flea Market.

Membership: NØTRK reminded everyone that 1998 annual dues are now being accepted.

Special Events: NØHPP reported these upcoming events:

- North Pole Net is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 14th.

Contest/DX: KØIL reported on the 1997 Field Day scores as published in QST. The Ak-Sar-Ben club came in third in the country in the 5A class with a total score of 8,182, and first in Nebraska, the Midwest Division and the "0" call area in classes A, B and C. This places us 46th overall in the entire country.

Nominating Committee: The following individuals have been contacted and have agreed to run for the following positions as listed:

- President - Linda Newman - KBØTGY
- Vice President - Darwin Platt - WB5HZH
- Board Member - Dan Buchholz NØPOT
- Board Member - George Rezac KBØQMN
- Board Member - Steve Dowse NØSXZ
- Board Member - To Be Determined

Unfinished Business:

501C(3)Status - KØIL reported there has been no recent correspondence from the IRS, however the records update requested by the IRS has been completed and returned.

Laser Printer - AAØH reported that it is not cost effective to repair the Club's laser printer which is used to prepare the Ham-Hum. KA4ZZQ has offered to donate the use of his own printer to produce the Ham Hum. The printer will be disposed of at the next Club auction.

New Business:

Todd, KKØDX addressed the Board on *possible changes to the Club by-laws*, citing the lack of a section addressing the composition of the board and the procedures for replacing Board members or officers in the event of multiple resignations. The Board directed KKØDX to call for a meeting of the By-Laws committee and draft a proposal for consideration by the Board at the January, 1998 meeting.

Dave, WJØZ addressed the Board suggesting the *duties and responsibilities of the various positions on the Board*, such as secretary, treasurer and standing committee chairman be *put in writing* so that persons interested in running for a position on the Board have an awareness of their responsibilities if elected.

Darwin, WB5HZH addressed the Board regarding concerns he had as to *why ARES was not activated immediately after the storm*. WJØZ and NØTRK reviewed the policies for activating ARES with the Board and what may be done in the future to get more information out on the status of ARES when conditions may warrant a possible activation.

Darwin, WB5HZH expressed concerns about the *status of the Ak-Sar-Ben Club WEB page*, citing out of date information appearing on the page and the impression this may give of the Club. Todd, KKØDX, the webmaster for the page will update the information in the next couple of weeks. KØIL made a motion to subscribe the club call, KØUSA to the domain QSL.NET which will enable the Club to have an e-mail address for correspondence. The motion was seconded by KBØTGZ. Motion approved. *The Club's new E-mail address is: kØusa@qsl.net, which will direct e-mail to the Secretary.*

Bill, K9RZ expressed concerns about certain users of the 146.94 repeater making *negative statements or comments on the air about government agencies or organizations the Club may be asked to assist during public service activities*. These comments have the potential to do severe damage to the working relationships the Club has worked very hard to establish. Bill urged the members of the Board to become more proactive on the Club's repeaters to correct misinformation and counter the negativism. It was suggested that repeater etiquette may be a good topic for a Saturday morning mini-class for newly licensed hams.

With no further business before the Board, AAØH received a motion to adjourn from KGØSY, second by NØHPP. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Jackson,
K9RZ Secretary



Meeting Minutes:

Minutes Of The General Membership Meeting - Aksarben Amateur Radio Club - November 1997

The November 14, 1997 general membership meeting of the Aksarben Amateur Radio Club was held at the Red Cross Emergency Services building at 80th Avenue and Spring Street.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM with AAØH presiding.

The pledge of allegiance, introduction of members, visitors and standard announcements were completed.

AAØH entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the October 10, 1997 general membership meeting as printed in the Ham Hum. Motion by KBØUKM, second by KBØUWR. Motion approved.

President's Report: AAØH mentioned there still seems to be a great amount of confusion about who is the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club and who is the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Handouts are available explaining the ARES organization and its role. A future article in the Ham Hum will explain the relationship between the Club and ARES and the why they are two entirely separate organizations.

AAØH is looking for a new Public Relations Committee chairman as Rob, N9IDY has left the area due to a job transfer.

Vice President's Report: The evening's program will be presented by Jerry, WA6POZ, showing an ARRL video.

Treasurer's Report: KD4UXU presented the October treasurer's report. AAØH entertained a motion to approve the report as presented. KA4ZZQ moved, NØWAV second. Motion approved.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee - The following Club members have been nominated by the committee for the positions indicated:

- President - KBØTGY
- Vice President - WB5HZH
- Board Member - KBØQMN
- Board Member - NØSXZ
- Board Member - NØPOT
- Board Member - NØYUE

Emergency Communications - AJØA presented the report. Ken explained the structure of ARES as a field organization of the ARRL. The Ak-Sar-Ben club is a resource that supports the Midlands ARES voluntarily, including, by permission, the use of the KØUSA callsign. They are two separate organizations. Ken also reported on the ARES activation from October 31 thru November 7 providing communications support to the Nebraska National Guard during the clean-up following the October snowstorm. 40 amateurs participated providing 565 man-hours of service. The operation was very successful.

Education - AJØA reported a class is still in the planning stages.

Membership - NØTRK gave the report. 1998 annual dues are due. Renew early and avoid the rush at the December meeting.

Publications - KA4ZZQ reported the next deadline for the Ham Hum will be November 21st.

Special Events - NØHPP reported the "North Pole Net" will be on Sunday afternoon, December 14. Helpers are needed.

Contest/QSL - KØIL reported on the Field Day standings as reported in QST. The Club placed first in the Midwest Division, and 46th overall in the entire country. Ed encouraged everyone to sign up for the club gavel competition portion of the upcoming ARRL SSB sweepstakes and 10 meter contests.

ARRL - KEØXQ reported the ARRL Letter has an item about the Midlands ARES activity in this weeks issue.

VE Exams - VE Exams will be conducted on the last Tuesday in November at 6:00 PM at the Red Cross Building.

Government Relations - KAØTKU reported that there is no real progress on the tower ordinance issue with the city. He is keeping the pressure up.

Transmitter Hunt - NØWAV will be hiding the bunny this Sunday, starting at the UNO parking lot at 3 PM.

Door Prizes - NØPOT reported on door prizes.

Unfinished Business:

501C(3) Status: KØIL has contacted the attorney who assisted in preparing the application. The attorney will contact the IRS on the status of the application.

New Business: None

Announcements:

KEØXQ announced the NOMADS group is moving the Saturday evening get together from the Village Inn to King Kong's at 23rd and Dodge.

WØRMB highlighted an article in this month's QST.

NØWAV has received a honorary commission in the Nebraska National Guard as a "Communications Specialist E-5 Sergeant" for her help during the ARES activation.

K9RZ announced the club e-mail address is now {kØusa@qsl.net}. Correspondence for the board or officers of the club may be directed to that address.

WBØCMC reminded everyone to remember a contribution to their favorite repeater while renewing their Club membership this year.

With no further business pending, AAØH entertained a motion to adjourn. Moved by WBØCMC, second by WJØZ. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Jackson,
K9RZ Secretary



DECEMBER MEETING DOOR PRIZE DETAILS....

If you missed the November club meeting you missed the announcement of the major prizes for the December meeting. Along with the original ADI AT-2D0 2 meter HT that made odd month appearances, we decided that it would be nice to have more!!!!

So with the ticket sales (thanks to you all), we acquired 1 more ADT AT-200 **2 meter HT**, and an ADI AT-600 **DUAL BAND HT**.

Here is some info on the radios:

ADI AT-200:

Frequency range: 144.0-148.0 MHZ
Output Power: 5 Watts (with 12 volt battery pack)

ADI AT-600:

Frequency range: 144.0-148.0 MHZ
Frequency range: 420.0-450.0 MHZ
Frequency range: 100.4-174.0, 350.0-470.0, 900.0-985.0 MHZ (recv)

Output Power: 5 Watts on 2/440 (with 12 volt battery pack)
2 Watts on 2 (with 7.2 volt battery pack)
1.8 watts on 440 (with 7.2 volt battery pack)

Other features of the AT-600. 120/200 nonvolatile memory channels. Switch able FM/AM reception. Cloning ability. DTMF paging and decoding. Full duplex operation. Plus many more!!!!

But that is not all!!! Even though the radios are impressive in themselves, that is not all the prizes that are going to be there!!! Far to many to list here, but here is a teaser. AEA isopole, Coax, CD-Roms, Subscriptions, Power Strips, Books and POWER SUPPLIES.

Thanks to you for your support and see you in DECEMBER!!!!!!
73' s DAN DE NØPOT

AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB DOOR PRIZE DRAWING RULES

- 1: MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN (NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!),
- 2: ALL PRIZE DRAWINGS ARE FINAL.
- 3: DOOR PRIZE DRAWING OPEN TO ALL, (IF NO CALL SIGN - PLEASE WRITE FULL NAME).
- 4: TICKET PRICES ARE:

1 FOR \$.50
3 FOR \$ 1.00
16 for \$ 5.00
32 for \$10.00
65 for \$20.00
165 for \$50.00 (for those who want to live dangerously!!!!!!)

- 5: ALL PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED.

* **Ham brochures on the road:** If you're traveling through Connecticut, don't be surprised if you see ham radio brochures at several Interstate rest stops or at Bradley International Airport. The Educational Activities Department has distributed **Ham Radio . . . Today and Into the Future** as part of its efforts to spread the word about our great hobby. The brochures tell what ham radio is all about and refer readers to the ARRL. (From ARRL Letter)



HAM HUM

December 1997

MY EXPERIENCES WITH ARES

-OR-

AN EASY WAY TO MAKE E - 5 (SERGEANT)

It all started when Ken (AJØA) put out the call for volunteers on the Sunday night ARES NET on November 2, 1997. I have one of those jobs, that if needed, I can find the people to cover. So that is where I started the quest.

First I called and acquired one vacation day for Monday. On Monday night, I called my manager for input on the rest of the week. He told me to trade my hours with someone else, which worked out great, because that opened up the rest of the week till Friday. I quickly called Ken and told him I was available until Thursday.

Sunday night after net I checked in with Ken, and he told me to be at the National Guard Armory between 0730 and 0800. Upon arrival I was assigned to Capt. Jamber. Our mission: Valley, Ne.

After a brief stop at the city building to get the city maps and talk to the Mayor of Valley, we arrived at our location about 0930. The rest of the crew of about 27 arrived around 1000. The clean up began with street by street progression. I reported back to the net control at the completion of each street. As the day went on, and the progression progressed, various injuries occurred (non fatal). We completed Valley in approximately 6 hours .

Tuesday's assignment was LaVista. Running late that day, when I got into the communications room, one of the majors told me that Capt. Jamber had just been in there looking for me and said that he would be in the motor pool until 0800. When I arrived I found that Capt. Jamber had already left. After a cell phone call, he was located at the LaVista dump site, so they told him to come back and get me.

That was an interesting way to start the day, but it was just the "start". Just as we began working in LaVista, the state trucks, that were assigned to us, had to leave because of a threat of another storm coming in. So they went off to Norfolk to put their snow blades on . After a bit of regrouping, we ended up in North Omaha, clearing impassable streets. That day ended at 1530.

On Wednesday, our assignment was a section of North Omaha.

On Thursday, our assignment was Weeping Water, Nebraska. After a small discussion with Mary (NØTRK) and Ken (AJØA) regarding the distance from Weeping Water to Omaha and the power of an HT radio, it was concluded that the HT was under-powered. To resolve this matter I asked if a cigarette lighter plug could be wired into the HUMVEE. I found out that it was not possible to wire cigarette lighter plugs in, however it was possible to direct wire in a 35+ watt mobile. With radio wired we were off to Weeping Water. The radio worked fantastic except in extreme low areas. That problem was rectified with a little help from Chuck (NØSMX) at the Weeping Water EOC.

After they finished for the day, Capt. Jamber called a meeting with all of the guys before we left the area. I was 'HUMVEE sitting' for them, when I heard all 27 of them call out my name. I got out and saw them standing in formation. So I stood in formation, also. Capt. Jamber motioned for me to come stand up by him. Then he told me to stand in front of him. After I did, Capt. Jamber performed a field promotion. I went from civilian to E-5 Sergeant First Class Communications Specialist, and the squad saluted me.

During my "TIME" in the military, I received several inquires on the range of our equipment, and from a few people interested in becoming Hams.

So, in conclusion, as an E-5 Sergeant First Class Communications Specialist, non commissioned, of course, I found the experience challenging and rewarding to all the people involved. As with any emergency situation we all learn something about ourselves and our equipment. If the situation ever arrives again, I'll do it all over again!!!

Just remember "We want you for ARES, but we want you trained" .

73' s

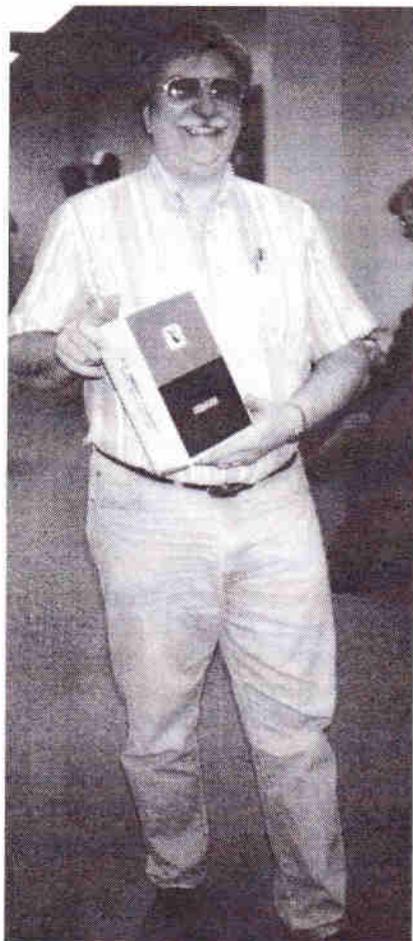
Julianna Leighton DE NØWAV





KGØXJ showing ham radio to scouts at Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) '97



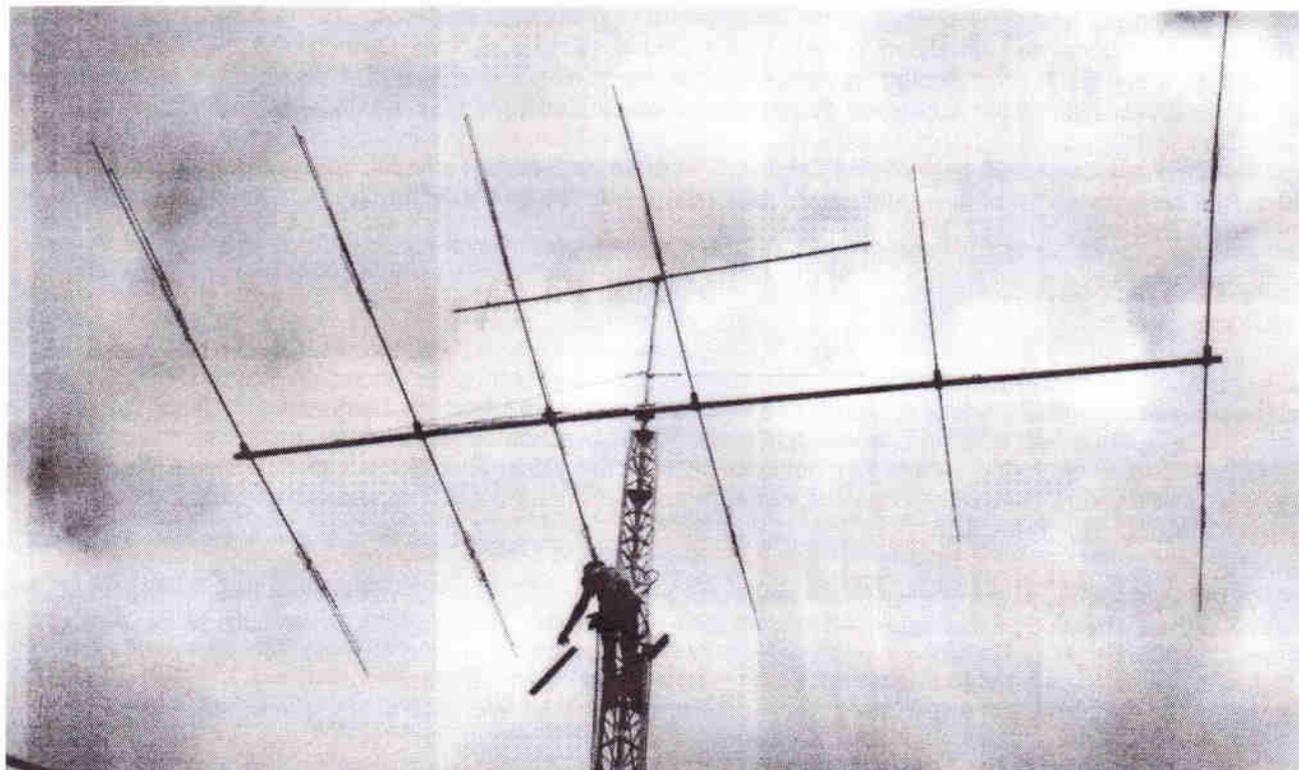


This is NØHPP
KGØHQ,KGØXA
KØTVD,and
KBØTHD(Behind
Camera) working
on Chuck's
Tower.

P
A
R
T
Y



This Is Chuck, KØTVD



This Is Chuck's tower.....up.



CW... American and International Morse Code

Joe Niemann KCØKS

To some, it is the sound of music. To others, it is another language. What is IT? Most Amateur Radio operators know IT as the Morse code, the International Morse Code they are required to learn to obtain their licenses. But many hams aren't aware that the code they know is not the original Morse code. The code used to transmit that famous "What hath God wrought!" message more than a century-and-a-half ago was the American Morse Code. That code features many similarities and some differences with the code we, as hams, use. For example, the letter C in International Morse is - . - . while in American Morse it is . . . , and the letter P in International is . - - . while in American it is the same as our number 5, five dits.

The American Morse was used for more than a century by railroad and commercial telegraphers (Western Union included), but with rapidly changing technology those operators became history. Many of those former commercial telegraphers loved what they were doing and even today haven't given up communicating by Morse code, albeit the American Morse. They get together frequently on weekends, hook up their keyers and sounders to an obsolete 300 baud modem, and use their telephone line as their "landline" for code communication with friends. Some call it dial-up telegraphy. There are a lot of them out there that still do this on a regular basis. They obviously enjoyed their work at the key, and now have the fun of hearing the "music" of the clicks in their hobby. In their view, landline lives!

Readers of *Ham Hum* are being treated to an encouraging series of articles on the use of International Morse Code. The series by Martin Reid, N6QU is providing a number of important insights for the beginner in Amateur Radio. It's the how-to's of learning the code, getting on the air (getting the feet wet) and enjoying that aspect of our hobby known as CW. Although some segments of the U. S. military are downplaying or eliminating (the U. S. Coast Guard, for example) the use of the Morse code, the U. S. Navy still uses it in ship-to-ship communication with the Flashing Light system, the use of a search light with shutters. Among its advantages is the fact that it is a high-security system between ships. A 12 inch light can communicate from horizon-to-horizon. A good Navy signalman can read the copy just from the sound of the shutters "clicking" on his ship, just as a good commercial telegrapher can read the messages being sent while carrying on another conversation.

As noted above, rapidly changing communications technology is decreasing the necessity for Morse code and therefore our young people are not finding a reason to learn it. The Boy Scouts for example have eliminated the Merit Badge for Morse code because of a lack of interest. Back nearly 60 years ago youngsters could receive as a gift a pair of telegraph sender/receivers, each powered with two D cell batteries. The devices, hooked up with some bell wire, gave the young people a choice of sending or hearing clicks or buzzes, or seeing a flashing light, all in code. Each unit featured a listing of both types of code, International and American, printed on the device. Kids could "talk" to each other without a lot of their friends being able to understand this "foreign language." What fun! So, not only was it a plaything, it was a learning instrument. Today, is there anything similar to get young people involved in the Morse code, to keep it alive?

Just recently the ARRL announced a new Radio Coaches Program, a national effort to get young people involved in Amateur Radio. And certainly some of the volunteers would include those with a love for CW -- to impart their knowledge to tomorrow's hams. (See page 11 -ZZQ)

In early October The Wall Street Journal ran an article featuring telegraphy and the fact there seems to be a growing interest in it as a hobby.

One can find a great deal of information on the Internet about Morse code (both types) including the history, photographs of equipment, museum info, collectors (buy and sell) and even a Code Ode by Troy Weidenheimer, WOROF, in which, to paraphrase him, code is more than dots and dashes, it's music. Code practice software is also available for downloading. Also on the Internet there is information about CW contests such as the Super High Speed which requires 30 minutes of two-way solid copy of 250 letters per minute. That's about 50 words per minute for you slowpokes who think 5 words, or 13 or 20 per minute is beyond comprehension.

So Morse code lives, whether it's the clickety-click or tones. Yes it is another language, and for some, it is music to their ears.

(continued... page 11)

This is some neat stuff... I wasn't even aware there was a difference! Thanks Joe! -ZZQ



THE CODES (continued from page 10)

The electronic communications standard predating the internet by about 150 years.

Morse Code (American) U.S.A. & Canada landline

```

1 .---.
2 ....
3 ...- . A .- B -... C .. . D -.. E .
4 ....- F .-. G --. H .... I .. J
-.-.
5 --- K -- L _ M -- N -. O .
6 ..... P ..... Q ---. R . . S . . T -
7 --.. U .-. V ...- W --- X ...
8 -.... Y .. . Z ... 9 ..
0 . . or - (optional)
    
```

A dash time is equal to three times the length of the dot, exception is "L" which is a long dash that is equal to one dot-one dash. Numeral "0" is optional, one dot space dot as in "o", or short dash as in "t".

Question	... -.	"DN"	Dollar	... . . .	"SX"
Comma	..--	"AA"	Period	..--..	"UD"
Capital	... .		AND-&	... .	"ES"
Colon	..-- .	"KO"	SemiC	... . .	"SI"
Apostrophe	... -..		"QX"		
Begin Bracket	.....		"PN"	(Parenthesis	
End Bracket	.....		"PY"	Parenthesis)	
Exclamation	---		"MN"		
Begin Quotation	... -.		"QN"		
End Quotation	... -..		"QJ"		

phe, HO, AC4GL 11/4/95

Continental (International) Wireless and Undersea Cable, USA and Canada All services rest of world

```

1 .----
2 ..----
3 .---- A .- B -... C -.-. D -.. E .
4 .---- F .-. G --. H .... I .. J .----
5 .---- K --. L -.- M -- N -. O ---
6 .---- P .-. Q ---. R . . S . . T -
7 .---- U .-. V ...- W --- X ...
8 .---- Y -.- Z ---.
9 .----
0 .----
    
```

A dash time is equal to three times the length of the dot

Question	... -.
Comma	..--
Period	..--..
Colon	..-- .
Semicolon	... -..
Apostrophe	... -..
Begin Bracket	..... (Parenthesis
End Bracket	.....) Parenthesis)
Exclamation	(none at present)
Begin Quotation	... -.
End Quotation	... -..
AND-&	... .
@	... (same as y in Morse)

RADIO COACHES PROGRAM TO RAISE ELMERING TO NEW LEVEL

(from ARRL Letter 11/14)

Over the years in the pages of *QST*, countless letters and articles have been written about Elmers, those patient, inspired souls who thoroughly enjoy bringing newcomers into the world of Amateur Radio. Now, the ARRL's new Radio Coaches program takes Elmering to new levels. Through the Radio Coaches program, you and your fellow club members can become part of a national effort to better the lives of youth using Amateur Radio. And we'll provide the game plan!

Radio Coaches stems from the kickoff of America's Promise, the Alliance for Youth, a national campaign to improve the lives of the nation's young people and put them on paths for brighter, more productive futures. As a result, the ARRL Board of Directors authorized the creation of the "Radio Coaches" program as Amateur Radio's commitment to youth.

The mission will be to give young people an ongoing relationship with a caring adult and a marketable skill through effective education. Amateur Radio will be our chief tool. How does it work? From day one, we supply information to help your Affiliated or Special Service Club form a "coaching team." Your team will build a relationship with a local school, community organization or other institution from which you will recruit your "athletes." You will coach young people in your community on the basic elements of electronics and the magic of radio communication through exposure to Amateur Radio. In addition, you may arrange field trips to technology museums, radio conventions and hamfests. Or you may choose to introduce students to local businesses that use radio and electronics technology. Your job as a coach will be to make every member of your team more aware of how these experiences can lead to career opportunities in telecommunications.

The ARRL will support this effort by providing clubs with fliers to help recruit youngsters, curriculum materials and other informational resources. While supplies last, the ARRL will provide 1997 ARRL Handbooks to participating clubs who want to use them with students and later donate them to school libraries or youth groups. The League also will provide youth packages with handouts to accompany the curriculum materials. Basically, we'll supply the strategy, and you'll supply the energy and imagination. Through Radio Coaches, we want to reinforce the idea that Amateur Radio is a "sport for the brain." Ham radio provides not only a lifetime of enjoyment, but also, potentially, a lifetime career.

For more information on how you can get involved in the Radio Coaches program, contact Radio Coaches, c/o Field Services Department, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT, 06111; or e-mail coaches@arrl.org.--Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY



ARES GROUPS ARE PRESSED INTO SERVICE *(continued from page 1)*

ARES is a volunteer radio communications service available to Federal, state, county and local governments, as well as non-profit organizations. In the Omaha Metro Area there are more than 600 amateurs many who are trained in emergency communications procedures and use their own equipment to provide reliable communications during emergency situations. ARES services are provided at no charge to the government agencies and non-profit organizations they serve.

Douglas County EC, Ken Noel, AJØA reports there was a total of 558 man hours contributed during the clean up. ARES was used on 12 National Guard missions. The following repeaters were utilized: KØUSA (146.94), WBØCMC (147.00), WBØQQK (145.115), KØBOY (147.36), KØUSA (224.94), WBØCMC (444.950) and the WBØCMC ATV repeater. A special thanks to Charlie Michel, KØQVL for tape recording the operations.

On the October 31st edition of Newslite, Joe Eisenberg (WAØWRI) was interviewed about the storm and what the Lancaster County ARES were doing. And the November 7th edition featured an article submitted by NØTRK. If you or your club has any stories related to the storm, please send them to me and I'll include them in this newsletter.

This article is from the Nebraska Section News, by Bill McCullum, KEØXQ, NE Section Manager.



George, NWØM, works the 'hot seat' at KØUSA during the cleanup efforts.

Nominating Committee Addendum...

(Please refer to November Meeting Minutes..page 5 for complete list of 1998 nominees)

For Executive Board: Dr. John E. Hoagland NØYUE

John is a practicing Chiropractor in the Omaha area for the past four years. He has his Doctorate of Chiropractic Degree from Cleveland Chiropractic College in Kansas City, MO. Also, he has degrees in Health Science and Nutrition from Park College. He lives in Omaha with his wife and son.

He has had his Technician license for 5 years, participated in ARES activities for the past 3 years and belonged to the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club for the past 3 years. He had previously belonged to the Kansas City Amateur Radio Club.

In his spare time he enjoys Field Day activities, antenna construction, day hikes, bicycling, skating, skiing and golf.

REMEMBER: The election of officers and board members will be held during the Annual Business Meeting on Dec. 12. If you wish to express your vote and cannot attend the meeting, please complete the proxy you received last month and give it, along with your instructions, to another person who will be attending the meeting. -ZZQ



HAM HUM

December 1997

A Ham's Night Before Christmas

Yet another corruption of Clement Clarke Moore's classic Christmas tale, this time distorted by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, and the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC, December 2, 1996.

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
'And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window
'And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
'But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
'who looked slightly mean.
'So I thought for a moment,
'That it might be Wayne
'Green.

But no, it was Santa
'The Santa of Hams.
'On a mission, this Christmas
'To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
'Then stopped in his track,
'And he slid down the coax
'Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
'Behind stacks of CQ,
'This Santa of hamming
'Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
'Of paper and parts,
'And filled out all my late QSLs
'For a start.

He ran copper braid,
'Took a steel rod and pounded
'It into the earth, till
'The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
'Resoldered connections,
'Cranked down modulation,
'Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
'In my linear amp...
'(Never worked right before --
'Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
'Cleaned up the TV,
'He corrected the settings
'In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
'That would not compute,
'And he backed up the hard
drive
'And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
'In the bag that he brought,
'And he pulled out a big box,
'"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
'A Yaesu, for me?!"
'(If he thought I'd been bad
'it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
'How could I deserve this?
'Could it be all those hours
'that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
'And in record time, quickly
'Worked 100 countries,
'All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
'It was my call he sent,
'But the cards and the postage
'Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
'And left a card by the key:
'"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
'Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
'Looked me straight in the eye,
'Punched a code on the pad,
'And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
'And the pile-up was big,
'But a card from St. Nick
'Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
'It was copied all over.
'It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
'What a ham might expect,
'"Merry Christmas to all,
'And to all, good DX."

(C) 1996 Gary Pearce KN4AQ
'Permission to reprint on paper
or electronically is granted,
'with credit to the author.

PACKET RADIO IS NOT DEAD!

(from Nebraska Section News)

There seems to be a question making the rounds as of late about the usefulness of packet radio. With e-mail, packet is no longer needed. I suppose this only seems a realistic debate, and in some ways may be. One powerful force here is that you can communicate with non-ham people. Families now have another means of communication, not having to rely on telephone or a letter. At the same time, I think it would be safe to say that more people still do rely on their telephone or a letter from a friend or relative. For that reason, I think it would be a mistake to discount packet radio as a viable communications link in time of an emergency. It has already been demonstrated that public utilities fail immediately after an emergency, thus leaving e-mail, cell phones, or the telephone useless. The first few hours after a disaster become especially critical. Packet radio could become very valuable as a means of getting message traffic flowing during those very critical first few hours. One day there may be a more reliable means of emergency traffic handling, but it is not now in place. I think it would be a mistake to see packet, or ham radio in general discounted as a no longer needed communications source. (from Ron, WØWHY, Hastings ARC Trustee)

-One other thought.... Packet Radio is the ONLY self error checking mode we can communicate with in times when there is no commercially available power. -ZZQ



Want Ads:

(Want Ads are free to all club members)

WANTED: NØNI QSL card that was passed around at the November club meeting. I'd like to get it back since it is our only Iowa QSL card for WAS! Please return to: KØiL, Ed Edwards, POB 375, Elkhorn, NE 68022-0375. Thank you!

Sherman Communications

1913 VINTON STREET
OMAHA, NE 68108

(402) 346-6464

FAX: (402) 346-4459

SERVING NEBRASKA AND IOWA SINCE 1960
BUSINESS-REPEATER-AMATEUR-CB-SCANNERS
SALES - SERVICE - INSTALLATION
JOHN NIXON - SALES KBØYKK

LOOK! New Advertiser... John says they sell ADI and ICOM equipment. Drop by and say you saw them in HAM HUM. A new toy store for those who like REAL POWER!

Cookbooks:

'Tis the season to fill all your stockings with cookbooks. Isn't it a shame to see all that room on the mantle when there could be stockings stretched to their tensile limit stuffed with designer AK-SAR-BEN ARC Commemorative Cookbooks. Still only \$2.50 each. Still taking up valuable space in my garage.

Call the Editor and get 'em while they last. 289-0853

Advertising Rates

		1mo.	6mo.	Year
Business Card	2"x3.5"	\$10	\$40	\$60
Dbl Bus. Card	2"x7"	\$15	\$60	\$90
¼ Page	5"x3.5"	\$20	\$80	\$120
Half Page	5"x7"	\$25	\$100	\$150

Photo Ready ads must be to the editor by the Wed. after the club meeting in order to make the next month's issue. Advertisers will receive **HAM HUM** while their ad is running.

For Your Information

Clubs

1st Monday	Nebraska City	Neb. City Fire/Rescue
2nd Wed.	Lincoln ARC	1st Plymouth Church
2nd Friday	AK-SAR-BEN ARC	RED CROSS
		2912 S. 80th Ave.
3rd Thursday	Bellevue ARC	Bank of Bellevue
4th Thursday	SWIowa ARC	Council Bluffs, IA
		Red Cross 711-1st
4th Friday	Pioneer ARC	Memorial Hospital
last Saturday	Plattsmouth ARC	8AM @ Mom's Cafe

VE Testing

For all VE testing sessions, you must take a photocopy of your current license and the testing fee. Fee is \$6.25.

AK-SAR-BEN ARC Brian Zdan KMØY 553-2610
Held on the last Tuesday of each odd numbered month at the Red Cross at **2912 South 80th Ave.** at 6:30 PM.

Next Test is January 28, 1997.

S.W.I.A.R.C. Lorraine Bogle AAØBS 712-322-1454 Iowa Western Community College at 6:30 PM.

Lincoln ARC: John Hauner WAØYPY, (402)-486-1400

Popular Nets

Day	Time	Freq.(Mhz)	Who
M-F	7:30AM	3.9835	NE Morning Net
M-F	6:30PM	3.982	NE Storm Net
M-F	8:30PM	147.09	Denison, IA
M-F	9:00PM	146.76	East NE ARES
M-F	12:30PM	3.980	Cornhusker Net
Mon.	8:00PM	145.115	Sarpy Cty. ARES
Mon.	9:00PM	146.94	Elmer Net / Newslite
Mon.	9:00PM	145.29	Mills CO. IA
Tues.	7:00PM	146.94	QCWA
Wed.	7:00PM	146.67	Dodge Co. ARES
Wed.	9:00PM	146.82	Pott. Co. ARES
Wed.	9:00PM	146.73	NE City ARES
Thurs.	7:00PM	28.200	10 Meter Net CW
Thurs.	8:30PM	147.48(Simp)	Plattsmouth ARC
Thurs.**0200Z		434/421.25	ATV
Sat.	12:00PM	146.94	Trader Net
Sun.	8:00AM	3.901	Trader's Net
Sun.	9:00AM	3.896	3900 Club
Sun. 7:00PM		28.125	Slow Speed CW
Sun. * 0000Z		28.400	10M Phone Net
Sun. * 0100Z		145.09	Packet Net
Sun. * 0200Z		146.94	Midlands ARES
		434/421.25	ATV

*The zulu(UTC)time indicated would actually be Mon(UTC)
**0200Z would actually be Fri (UTC).



Dec '97/Jan '98

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	7		8		9		10		11		12		13
PEARL HARBOR Lest We Forget contests: QRP ARCI CW TOPS 3.5 MHz ARRL 160 meter FAIRS HF DX Data		About one month until I resume publishing and you resume seeing 4th Thursday/ Friday/Saturday events. Next year, we need clubs using these days to tell us their holiday schedules or post them on a web site, if applicable				Lincoln ARC meeting 20th & D 7:30 pm				AARC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEET'G + potluck RED CROSS 80th & Spring 7:30 pm		ARRL 10 meter contest	
	14		15		16		17		18		19		20
NORTH POLE NET ARRL 10 meter contest				W1AW Qualifying Run 8 p.m.		SACMARC End of Year Party		Bellevue ARC meeting Bank of Bellevue 7:30 pm				Croatian CW contest	
	21		22		23		24		25		26		27
Croatian CW contest				1½ more shopping days until Christmas		This is the ½ day New (ham accessory of choice) in my stocking?		MERRY CHRISTMAS! 4 months til Des Moines hamfest		MERRY DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS!		Plattsmouth ARC meet'g @ Mom's 8:00 A.m. contests: Stew Perry 160m RAC Winter	
	28		29		30		31	Jan	1	Jan	2	Jan	3
contests: Stew Perry 160m RAC Winter		5 months til 3900 Club Hamboree @ South Sioux City: NFØN				STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT - This is the night when California is briefly behind the rest of the nation by a year!		STRAIGHT KEY "NIGHT" until 6 P.M. Omaha time Oh, yeah! HAPPY NEW YEAR 1998!				contests: RTTY roundup NNY QSO Party	
Jan	4	Jan	5	Jan	6	Jan	7	Jan	8	Jan	9	Jan	10
contests: RTTY Roundup NNY QSO Party		Neb City ARC meeting NC Fire/Rescue 7:30 p.m. 3 months til Deloit swap meet		AARC Executive Board Meeting Red Cross 80th & Spring 7:00 p.m.		2 months til Nebr. State Convention @ Norfolk: NØVLX		Mid State HamVention at Kearney starts tomorrow		AARC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RED CROSS 80th & Spring 7:30 pm		Lions in the Air contest do u have ur SKN rpt in the mail. OM? Kearney Mid State HamVention	
Jan	11	Jan	12	Jan	13	Jan	14	Jan	15	Jan	16	Jan	17
Lions in the Air contest				2 weeks until AARC VE testing				3 months til your taxes are due, NOW if you pay quarterly!		ARRL Board of Directors meets		St. Joseph, MO hamfest: WBØW ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes (thru 1/19)	

DONETS (unofficial gatherings between meetings)

Sat.	7-9AM	Bluffs Run Casino	146.82(-)	Sat.	10:30PM - 1 AM	Denny's	147.00(+/-)	88th&Maple
Sat.	7-10PM	'Nomads' Village Inn @73rd & Center	146.94(-)	Fri.	8pm	Wendy's Galvin Rd. Bellevue	147.39 (+)	



AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc. 1998 Membership Renewal Form

(Please fill in completely and return this form with your renewal check so we can update our database)

Call Sign: _____ Old Call Sign (if changed recently) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ + _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Occupation: _____

License Class: _____ ARRL Member? _____ ARES Member? _____

Spouse Information: (only if spouse is renewing)

Call Sign: _____ Old Call Sign (if changed recently) _____

Name: _____

License Class: _____ ARRL Member?: _____ ARES Member? _____



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To Amateur Radio Station

