



# Ham Hum

April 10, 2020 Volume MCMXLV, Issue 4

## Meeting Location And Test Session Updates

Due to the COVID-19 virus the **Red Cross** has closed it's doors to outside groups using their facilities. This is only temporary but will impact AARC club meetings and of course the **License Exam Sessions** for at least a few weeks. There are also the guidelines set by the Federal Government as well as the Douglas County Health Department that we do not gather in groups larger than 10. When this changes we will be able to meet again.

In the meantime, the Board of Directors is looking at alternatives ways **For Field Day this year**, ARRL is calling 2020 a Time to Adapt.

ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. "Field Day isn't about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances."

Adam, KD0MMG says we cannot know for sure when the gathering bans are going to ease up. If in the middle of May, things get easier, we can then plan a field day event. I may not be as well planned as usual, but we can come up with something. I we are still trying to social isolate, then we should encourage the Club members to have a Virtual Field Day. Perhaps we all get on 94 and chat, we try to get as many "E" stations running in Omaha as we can.

## **AKSARBEN ARC Club Meeting – March 13, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by saying the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by introductions by name and call sign. There were 18 attendees. Officers and board members present were Sean ADOQG, Dave NOJSB, and Dan NOPOT.

**Secretary's Report** – (Chris Rice is the keeper of the minutes for this meeting) Sean spoke for Brian who is in Missouri for a Salvation Army event. The minutes from the previous meeting are in the Ham Hum. Bylaws are still under review.

**Treasurer's Report** – Dave NOJSB -- As February 29, 2020, the club's accounts had balances of: Main Checking \$4,861.80, Repeater Checking \$432.45, Savings \$6,991.35, CD's for Life Members \$6,474.29 & \$6,736.18, and the Repeater CD \$1,110.30. This gives the club a grand total of \$26,606.37.

In the Month of February there were deposits of \$393.81, consisting of \$328 in membership dues, \$28 from the meeting treats, and Donations of \$20 from WBOQQK and \$17.81 from Amazon Smile.

The February expenses were \$22.45 for the meeting treats.

**President's report** – Thanks to all that came to the meeting. The numbers are down because of the Virus and other responsibilities.

**Vice President's Report** – Pat WOOJU is unavailable because of job responsibilities. Sean will do a program on QRP Radio. This is a 5 watt radio.

### **COMMITTEES**

ARES – No Report

SATERN – No Report

Community Events – No Report

Education – No Report

Membership – No Report

Publication – Ham Hum – it's been mailed, as always looking for articles. WEB site is available.

Repeater – John WBOCMC Omaha reports is working fine. Per Bill Snyder KDOFJR - The Council Bluffs repeater .82 has some new equipment going in. They are using a Temporary site. The main repeater should be up and running in the next few weeks.

Field Day – No Report

QSL & Technical – No Report

Courtesy – Bill KDOFJR – No cards went out.

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Equipment – No Report

Public Awareness – No Report

Transmitter Hunt – There was no interest, so there will be no hunt this month.

Flea Esta – Chris – as previously stated we are shopping for ideas for door prizes. Dave received a couple of suggestion for radios that he will be investigating. There are no plans at this time to changes on the date.

**Old Business** – Nothing

**New Business** – SWIARC had a good turnout for their Flea Market, 112 attendees. A good time was had by all.

**Announcements** – The Lincoln Flea Market has been moved to October 31, 2020.

There were no door prizes, but there are cookies and coffee in the other room.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

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## Club Calendar

Most of events and gatherings have been cancelled.

See page 6 for a list of Area Nets that seems to be the safest place to be to communicate with groups of 10 or more people .

Special thanks to those Net Controllers who have in the past consistently made a substantial contribution to the continued operation and growth of the Area Networks.

### AARC Coffee and Conversation

**CANCELLED Until Further Noticed**



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# Area Nets

## Monday

7:00 PM 145.290 South-West Iowa ARES Glenwood, IA.

8:00 PM 144.250 NE Missouri SWOT.

9:00 PM 146.940 AARC Chat Net. Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Omaha, NE.

## Tuesday

9:00 PM 145.310 Washington Co. ARES Washington Co, NE.

## Wednesday

7:00 PM 146.670 Dodge Co. ARES Dodge Co, NE.

7:30 PM 7.122 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

8:00 PM 3.564 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

8:00 PM 145.310 Saunders Co. ARES Saunders Co, NE.

8:30 PM 7.122 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

9:00 PM 3.580.5 PSK Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

9:00 PM 146.820 Pottawattamie County ARES Council Bluffs, IA.

## Thursday

8:30 AM 7.122 CW Four State QRP 40M Morning Net.

7:30 PM 145.310- Lincoln/Omaha SATERN Net. Ashland, NE.

8:00 PM 28.350 SSB 10-Meter Net.

8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.

8:00 PM 146.360 Heartland DX Association.

## Friday

10:00 PM 224.760- Tone 146.2 Promote the Band Net

## Saturday

12:00 PM 146.82 Swap Net Council Bluffs, IA.

8:30 PM 3.921.000 QCWA Chapter 20.

## Sunday

8:00 AM 3.902.500 Swap Net.

8:30 AM 3.897.500 3900 Club.

8:30 PM 443.925+ (103.5 tone) IRLP Net.

2:00 PM 50.200 6 Meter Net

9:00 PM 146.940- Douglas Co. ARES net, KØUSA repeater.

## Club Officers & Board Members

President	Sean Edwards	ADØQG	president@aksarbenarc.org
Vice President	Pat Connell	WØOJU	vicepresident@aksarbenarc.org
2018 Secretary	Brian Sohl	KEØGKB	secretary@aksarbenarc.org
2018 Treasurer	Dave Rice	NØJSB	treasurer@aksarbenarc.org
2019-2021 Director	Dave Rice	NØJSB	board@aksarbenarc.org
2019-2021 Director	Dan Buchholz	NØPOT	board@aksarbenarc.org
2018-2019 Director	Brian Sohl	KEØGKB	board@aksarbenarc.org
2018-2019 Director	Ray Blackburn	NØREA	board@aksarbenarc.org
Immediate Past President	Kevin Hill	KAØVNY	board@aksarbenarc.org

## Club Committees

Courtesy Committee	Bill Snyder	KDØFJR	courtesy@aksarbenarc.org
Education	Ray Blackburn	NØREA	education@aksarbenarc.org
Field Day	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	fieldday@aksarbenarc.org
Flea-Esta	Chris Rice		flea@aksarbenarc.org
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	membership@aksarbenarc.org
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	wa0zqg@hotmail.com
P.I.M.P.	Jim Westcott	KAØKCV	pr@aksarbenarc.org
Prizes	Open	Open	prizes@aksarbenarc.org
A.R.E.S.	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	n0up@arrl.net
Publications	Brian Pitchanau	WEØBEP	hamhum@aksarbenarc.org
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL	qslmanager@aksarbenarc.org
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph	KØCTU	community_service@aksarbenarc.org

Technical Assistance	Ed Edwards	KØIL	technical@aksarbenarc.org
Web Services	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	web_master@aksarbenarc.org

## Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Vice Chairman	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Club Call sign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	trustee@aksarbenarc.org
Member	Russ Hilton	ADØQH	repeater@aksarbenarc.org

## Other Contacts

ARRL Midwest Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS	k0das@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Dir.	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	k0aiz@arrl.org
EC Douglas County	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	dcares@aksarbenarc.org
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN	
Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	testing@aksarbenarc.org
NE Section Manager	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	ka0boj@arrl.org

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## Ham Radio during Disasters by Rick Rodgers KD0WDP

In the United States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides support to State and local governments in fulfillment of their responsibilities for preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation of disasters. One method FEMA has used to support State and local emergency communication functions was to sign and implement a Memorandum of Understanding with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) for amateur radio operators to provide electronic communications for State and local governments in disasters.

As of 2018, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has licensed 750,000 amateur radio operators in the United States. The national organization of amateur radio operators called the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) was formed in 1914. More than 80,000 of these amateurs have registered their availability for emergency communications in disasters in the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

Amateur radio operators have been providing communications in natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, blizzards, and earthquakes since 1910. Since amateur radio operation was prohibited during the years of both World Wars I and II, FEMA has sponsored a new branch of the amateur service called Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). RACES operators are authorized to operate if the President invokes his War Emergency Powers while all other amateur operation would be silenced.

Some amateur radio operators in the United States communicate by sending Morse code signals, others prefer to use microphones. Some use computer-to-computer communications, while still others set up amateur television stations so that they can see the person they are talking to.

The role of amateur radio in providing emergency electronic communications for disaster management will be examined and future contributions will be explored

The national organization of amateur radio operators, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) (<http://www.arrl.org/>) was formed in 1914. Individuals and clubs have been involved in providing communications during disasters from the earliest days of amateur radio. Radio amateurs at the University of Michigan and Ohio State in 1913 provided emergency communications for a Midwest area isolated by a severe windstorm. In 1935, the ARRL reorganized and formalized this type of activity by establishing its "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" and appointing amateurs all over the United States to be Emergency Coordinators. In 1949, the ARRL created its "National Traffic System". The ARRL's monthly magazine is called "QST", (Ford, 1994)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (<http://www.fema.gov/>) and the American Radio Relay League signed a Memorandum of Understanding on August 3, 1984. According to this memorandum; ***"The purpose of this document is to state the terms of a mutual agreement between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), that will serve as a framework within which volunteer personnel of the ARRL may coordinate their services, facilities, and equipment with FEMA in support of nationwide State and local emergency communications functions. It is intended, through joint coordination and exercise of the resources of ARRL, FEMA, and Federal, State and local governments, to enhance the nationwide posture of emergency communications readiness for any conceivable emergency."***

During the cold war era, civil defense planners in the Defense Department requested the Federal Communications Commission to establish a "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service" so that there could be special amateur radio communications during a war when normal amateur communications would be prohibited as happened throughout the war years of World Wars I and II, (FEMA, 1991).

***"The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to assure the provision of Federal telecommunications support to Federal, State, and local response efforts following a Presidentially declared emergency, major disaster, extraordinary situation and other emergencies under the Federal Response Plan. This ESF supplements the provisions of the National Plan for Telecommunications Support in Non-Wartime Emergencies, Hereafter referred to as the National Telecommunications Support Plan (NTSP)."***

***"Amateur Radio networks /systems may provide daily and emergency public service communications during emergencies and major disasters. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sponsors the combined facilities of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and the National Traffic System (NTS), and recognizes the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) and the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). Other licensed amateur activities and Personal Service Radio (PSR) groups also provide public communications during emergencies and major disasters. Members of the Radio Emergency Associated Communication Team (REACT) perform similar services utilizing Citizen Band radio equipment."***

***"The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to coordinate efforts to provide sheltering, feeding, and emergency first aid following a catastrophic earthquake, significant natural disaster or other event requiring Federal response assistance; to operate a Disaster Welfare Information (DWI) System to collect, receive, and report information about the status of victims and assist with family reunification within the disaster areas; and to coordinate bulk distribution of emergency relief supplies to disaster victims following a disaster."***

The Salvation Army has for many years provided emergency services to individuals and groups in time of disaster. The U.S. Congress officially recognized the capabilities of the Salvation Army when it enacted the Disaster Relief Act of 1970, amended by the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288. The American Radio Relay League and the Salvation Army have signed a Statement of Understanding with respect to Disaster Services.

The American Radio Relay League signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Weather Service (NWS) on January 19, 1988. Radio amateurs provide emergency communications support to the National Weather Service on an as-needed basis in weather emergencies such as hurricanes, snow and heavy rain storms, and other severe weather situations, (Hensley, 1990). The National Weather Service has a special tornado spotter service called SKYWARN. The NWS recruits volunteers, trains them in proper weather spotting procedures, and accepts the volunteers' reports during tornado watches and episodes of severe weather. Radio amateurs have assisted the NWS as communicators and spotters since the inception of the SKYWARN program, (Barton, 1991).

In order to examine the role of amateur radio in providing electronic communication for disaster management, we must first look at the way Federal, State and local government authorities handle disasters. The former civil defense organization in Washington is now called the Federal Emergency Management Agency. James Lee Witt, the emergency management director for the state of Arkansas when Clinton was governor, was appointed by President Clinton to be director of FEMA in mid 1993. In October 1993, Mr. Witt reorganized FEMA to de-emphasize civil defense and to give more emphasis to preparedness for the threats of natural disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, etc. The new FEMA has four directorates: mitigation; preparedness, training, and exercises; response and recovery; and operations support.

The United States seems to have suffered an unusually large number of different types of disasters in the past. Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Wildfires, Floods, Blizzards, pandemics are all catastrophic disasters. In order to examine the role of amateur radio in support of disaster management, we will briefly review some of these large scale disasters.



Many cities, counties, and states are taking actions to invite amateur radio operators to volunteer their communication services in normal times in order to prepare for disasters. One of these cities is Martinez, California where the Chief of Police is also the Disaster Preparedness Director, (Boyd, 1991). The City Council decided to get a 30-foot motor coach and equip it as a mobile-command vehicle, called Control II. It is equipped with amateur TV, HF, VHF, SSB, and packet.

A county in Missouri has a highly active organization of ARES and RACES amateurs, (Schuchardt, 1992). The amateurs are organized much like a volunteer fire service association. They provide a mobile command post for communications support for floods, blizzards, search and rescue, hazardous chemical accidents and tornado spotting for the National Weather Service.

In order for amateur radio operators to be able to contribute their help in emergencies, the local public officials should be aware of amateur radio capabilities and limitations. A survey of mayors, city managers, and city council members attending an annual Michigan Municipal League convention disclosed that 80% had never had contact with their local ham radio group, (Turner, 1990). This indicates that amateurs should take appropriate action to educate their local authorities before some disaster occurs.

The amateur radio community has been studying disasters to investigate how they can provide emergency communications to organizations which are not as well prepared as are modern police, fire, and emergency medical units, (Boyd, 1995). Public works departments in cities and counties are key responders in large scale disasters. For example, they are becoming more involved in massive mutual aid assistance projects for debris removal and demolition of damaged structures. Many public works organizations have rather basic communications gear only usable within their home jurisdiction. This may cause problems when they are asked to respond to a different jurisdiction to furnish mutual aid. Assisting in this type of situation is an appropriate activity for amateur radio. Similarly, utility companies such as water, power, and sanitation agencies may need emergency communications assistance from amateur radio.

Both private and public transportation providers used to transport injured to medical treatment centers or evacuees to shelters may have only the most basic radio equipment. Many school busses have no radios. Amateur radio can provide two-way radio communications essential for prompt efficient assignments and coordination of transportation resources.

Hospitals may need amateur radio operators as backup communicators if the telephone system is down and cellular systems down or overloaded. In recent earthquakes and hurricanes, many hospitals have been severely damaged with large scale relocations of patients necessary. Similarly, convalescent centers and retirement homes usually only have the usual telephone service. If many of the residents are non-ambulatory, there may be an urgent requirement for amateur radio emergency communications to support patient relocation and evacuation.

Child care centers may also have tremendous problems if a disaster, such as an earthquake, were to occur when the children are there and the parents are at work. Amateur radio operators should be able to help with emergency communications. Also, many school systems may have basic communications equipment but may not be able to cope with damage to antennas and equipment after a disaster. Amateurs practice for emergencies with battery-operated gear and hastily erected antennas.

In the Midwest, Amateur Radio Operators in a vast amount of Metropolitan areas have taken on the role of certified storm spotters for their county's Emergency Management. This consists of the radio operators taking classes, and exams to be certified by the National Weather Service and Storm Prediction Center.

They are the ones who go out into the storms and watch these storms for tornadoic activity, and report it back to the Emergency Operations Center, who then contacts the National Weather Service who then issues the warnings. Hams are their eyes and ears in the field, and the ones on the front line of these storms.

We do all of the above stated things without pay, and not for fame or notoriety, but because it is who we are and what Amateur Radio is all about. We humble ourselves. There is no place in ham radio for egos as it does nobody any good.

As Amateur Radio continues to grow with digital becoming more and more prevalent, and with more people getting their licenses, its a great thing to see the growth and interest.

73's

Rick R. KD0WDP

## **AKSARBEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB2020 BUDGET**

**See Page 15**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>Donations</b>		<b>Donations</b>	
Red Cross	\$50.00	Red Cross	\$200.00
<b>Meeting Refreshments</b>	\$310.00	<b>Meeting Refreshments</b>	\$420.00
<b>Membership</b>	\$1,750.00	<b>Membership</b>	\$100.00
<b>Flea Market</b>	\$2,500.00	<b>Flea Market</b>	\$1,970.00
<b>Ham Hum</b>		<b>Ham Hum</b>	\$1,000.00
<b>Interest/Bank Fees/Transfers</b>	\$69.00	<b>Interest/Bank Fees/Transfers</b>	\$30.00
		<b>Insurance (Liability)</b>	\$200.00
		<b>P O Box Rental</b>	\$106.00
		<b>Registrations</b>	
		Non-Profit Corporation Biennial	\$23.00
		Trailers	\$30.00
		<b>Web Site</b>	\$50.00
<b>Education</b>	\$100.00	<b>Education</b>	\$100.00
<b>Equip/Trailer Maint</b>		<b>Equip/Trailer Maint</b>	
Equipment	\$400.00	Equipment	\$500.00
Trailers		Trailers	\$50.00
		<b>Field Day</b>	\$215.00
		<b>QSL</b>	\$0.00
		<b>Activities</b>	
		Nebraska QSO	\$35.00
<b>Picnic</b>		<b>Picnic</b>	\$0.00
		<b>Programs/thanks</b>	\$100.00
		<b>Courtesy</b>	\$50.00
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	\$5,179.00	<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	\$5,179.00

## **A Message from the Editor:**

This Coronavirus has been having its effects on everyone, in that it has impacted on what we do, what we should not do, and what we cannot do. Not to mention for those who work for a living, whether you can work from home or how to or if you work at a location; Office building, Stores, etc.

Well, I was wondering about my Radio and Equipment. For example, How do you kill germs on a microphone ?

I happened to think of this while communicating with Adam on Field Day 2020. But more to come on that topic...

Back to the Microphone. Here are some responses I have read while researching this topic:

Is there some way to kill germs without harming the mic nor any humans? Should you just wipe it off with Clorox-type wipes ? Someone suggested Sporidicin wipes. Sporidicin will not damage any metals like other sanitizing wipes and is the same product used by dentists to sanitize instruments, as well as hospitals and veterinary clinics.

If you think about Alcohol and feel it will not harm your mic, use 75 % strength and Not the 50%.

Glen 20 disinfectant Aerosol Spray: kills up to 30 germs (Extremely Flammable)

A spray of Lysol was suggested.

Not sure what is best however, it is something to at least think about.