

Ham Hum

AARC and National Parks on the Air

It started in October when an email came to the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club president from a park ranger who works at Homestead National Monument in Beatrice, NE. It said:

*To whom this may concern,
Homestead National Monument of America and the National Park Service would like to invite you to partake in a program titled National Park Service on the Air. Joining with local and statewide radio operators, the National Park Service is working to develop outreach programs and community programs to promote the parks and the use of radios. Please reach out to me at your nearest convenience so that we may further this discussion and work together to bring about an appreciation for this pastime to our communities.*

There was a lot of talking about the event at the club board meeting and over coffee. Where could we go? The Mid-West Regional Headquarters and Lewis and Clark Historic Trail in downtown? What qualifies? What doesn't? Slowly the details about this National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event started to appear on the ARRL web site. The club answered the email that we were interested, but with the holidays the communications stalled.

Until club vice president Kevin Hill KA0VNY was near Homestead National Monument for work and decided to stop in and That conversation resulted in a meeting with Superintendent Mark Engler and Volunteer Coordinator Susan Cook in early January. During this meeting a large activation for National Parks on the Air was discussed. (See NPOTA page 8)



FEBRUARY MEETING:

February's Program will be on 12 Feb 2016, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Bldg., 81st & Spring Streets, Omaha, NE speaker Steve Schmitz, NOUP Douglas County ARES Emergency Coordinator

Inside this issue

National Parks On The Air	1
Saturday Night Coffee.....	7
January Minutes	4
Officers & Committees.....	3
Equipment Ads.....	9
Area Nets	12

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.

NOTICE — JOB OPENING

Anyone interested in taking over the Prizes Committee from Rollie-ABONN, please see him at the next meeting to discuss what this committee entails.

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 Brian KDØSVD (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 Officers & Board Members

President	Mitch Saure	WB0GBI	president@aksarbenarc.org
Vice President	Kevin Hill	KAOVNY	vicepresident@aksarbenarc.org
2014 Secretary	Bill True	WA9ASD	secretary@aksarbenarc.org
2014 Treasurer	Dave Rice	NØJSB	treasurer@aksarbenarc.org
2014-2016 Director	Russ Rosenquist	NØMNV	board@aksarbenarc.org
2014-2016 Director	Barb Westcott	KCØHLB	board@aksarbenarc.org

Club Committees

Immediate Past President	Adam Kavan	KD0MMG	board@aksarbenarc.org
Courtesy Committee	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	courtesy@aksarbenarc.org
Education	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	education@aksarbenarc.org
Field Day			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	Rollie Miller	ABØNN	prizes@aksarbenarc.org
Public Service/Emergency	Jim Westcott	KAØKCV	pr@aksarbenarc.org
Publications	Brian Pitchanau	KDØSVD	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

Other Contacts

ARRL Midwest Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS	k0das@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	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
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	oo_coordinator@aksarbenarc.org

AKSARBEN ARC Club Meeting - January 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by saying the Pledge of Allegiance followed by introductions by name and call. There were 26 attendees.

Officers and Board members present included:; Mitch, WB0GBI; Kevin, KA0VNY; Dave, N0JSB; Bill, WA9ASD; Russ, N0MNMW and Adam, KD0MMG.

Secretary's Report - There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the December meeting so they were approved as printed in Ham Hum.

Treasurer's Report - Dave, N0JSB - In the month of December there were deposits of \$5.69 from Amazon Smile. Payments consisted of \$126.45 for meeting refreshments, \$117.69 for Ham Hum toner, \$19.65 for moving the antenna trailer and a \$3 bank fee for a total of \$266.79. This leaves the balance of all the club accounts at \$20,889.33.

President's Report - Mitch, WB0GBI - Mitch commented that we have lots of interesting activities coming up in the year including National Parks On The Air, Field day, Museum Ships and Flea-Esta.

Vice President's Report - Kevin, KA0VNY Our Section Manager had to cancel due to illness so we have a video about ham communications with the International Space station for tonight. In February Steve, N0UP will present information about ARES. In May we hope to have Peter, KE7RDM give us an update on the USS Hazard. Also coming up is a presentation by Liberty Labs who have a supreme antenna range. The Society of Broadcast Engineers would like us to allow their members to attend that program. We may also have a program about making fox Hunt antennas.

ARES/SATERN/COMMUNITY EVENTS

ARES/OMMRS - Steve, N0UP - The annual Douglas County siren test will be coming up on March 12, weather permitting. The backup date is March 19. We need lots of volunteers for this; sign up now.

On February 16 there will be an OMMRS meeting with a presentation by the Department of Health at the Salvation Army.

On February 20 there will be an ARES meeting at the Salvation Army.

SATERN - no report

Community Events - Pat K0CTU - The State Track Meet volunteers list needs to be turned in by the beginning of February. That event will be May 20 and 21.

In April Creighton is again hosting the Midwest Rowing Regatta. In the past we have only needed a few people for that. This year they would like some volunteers to ride in the referees' boats as well as shore people.

Education Committee - Mary, N0TRK - Dan, N0POT announced that he has 3 students in his code class and can still accept more students. Contact him at n0pot@juno.com.

Mary reported that there are no specific plans for a Technician class at this time.

Membership Committee - Mary, N0TRK - "Pay your dues." Publications/ Web Services

Ham Hum - Brian, KD0SVD - Brian reported that everything is fine. He is trying to keep the Ham Hum to 12 pages for mailing purposes.

Web Services - Mary, N0TRK/Adam, KD0MMG - "It's up."

Repeater Committee - John, WB0CMC - "It's workin'." The D-Star repeater is also back up and running.

Field Day - Adam, KD0MMG - There will be a meeting soon.

QSL and Technical Committee - Eddy, K0IL - no report .

Courtesy Committee - Bill, KE0XQ - nothing to report. Bill is now at home and working on getting back to normal.

Trailer/Equipment Committee - Mary, N0TRK - Both trailers are cold and snowy.

Public Awareness - They're unaware.

Transmitter Hunt - Pat, K0CTU won the December transmitter hunt and will hide the transmitter in January. The next hunt will be on Sunday, January 17 starting at 3 PM from Memorial Park.

Old Business - The Skywarn Recognition Day event at the National Weather Service in Valley was a great success. There were over 500 contacts and about 350 of them were on the club's beam. The bands died at about 3 PM.

New Business - none

Announcements -

On January 10 some club members will be visiting the Homestead National Monument near Beatrice to scope out possible operating positions. New valid locations are being added all the time. Possible additions to the National Parks On The Air locations could be The Pony Express Trail, The Lewis and Clark Monument and The Mormon Trail.

Museum Ships On The Air will be June 3 and 4. The TBS transmitter the club bought is now in place on the USS Hazard. A long wire antenna will be in place soon.

There are name tags to be picked-up on the front table.

Norm, WA0JYD announced that there will be a free mini-flea market in the motorcycle dealership at 55th and Center on Saturday morning, January 9 from 8 AM until noon.

Rollie, AB0NN has door prizes. We will need a new door prize chairman after March. Sign up now. All tickets purchased are retained for the entire year and will be used in the December drawings.

Coffee and cookies are available in the break room. Please donate generously because tonight's donations will be matched by the club and donated to the Red Cross in appreciation for allowing us to use their facilities.

At 7:54 PM a motion was made by Norm, WA0JYD, seconded by John, WBOCMC to end the meeting. So moved.

EQUIPMENT ADS

Icom IC 3200 dual band mobile. Recent bench check:

2M 25 W high, 2.5 W low, 80 Hz high in freq after warm up, .15 uV RX sens.

440 23 W high, 1.8 W low, 190 Hz high after warm up, .1 uV sens.

Has touch-tone mic, programmable PL encoder and service manual.

Missing mobile mount. Also, a 13.8V 5A regulated power supply. Works good.

Contact John WB0CMC@cox.net 402-932-3443.

HF Amplifier - Legal Limit - 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters.

Finest components in a superb home-brew amplifier. Built right from the Eimac/W6SAI design. Requires a 3-1000Z tube. Power supply is disassembled consisting of motorized variac for setting HV, broadcast quality plate transformer, diode stack, swinging choke, and filter capacitors. Includes metering panel for setting and monitoring line voltage and plate voltage, line circuit breaker, etc.

RF Deck is stand-alone with vacuum variable w/ turns counter, air variable, B & W tank circuit coupled to band specific input matching circuits, meters for plate current, drive level and directional coupler and Dow-Key transfer relay. 30"H x 29"D x 21"W See Pictures at: <http://www.aksarbenarc.org> \$700 or best offer.– We deliver. Contact: equipment@aksarbenarc.org

Tektronics 520 Vector Scope & Tektronics 529 wave form monitor.

Both with service manuals. Make Offer, both work. For more info, contact

John, WB0CMC@cox.net 402-932-3443.

HF Dummy Load

You don't have a transmitter that will exceed this load's rating. Unit consists of 12 X 600 Ohm 375 non-inductive resistors in parallel with UHF connector. Not enclosed. 4,500 watts continuous rating. 21"L x 6 1/2" D See pictures at:

<http://www.aksarbenarc.org>.

\$225 or best offer contact: equipment@aksarbenarc.org

NPOTA 2016 National Parks On The Air

(Continued from page 1)

And it was suggested that we do this during Beatrice's annual Homestead Day's Celebration. After delegation of hams explained what they could do, the staff offered suggestions and a primary operation location was decided upon.

With those decisions made the subject of other opportunities was brought up and the park staff was open – no make that excited – about having an earlier set-up. So KA0VNY, KE0BHP and K0CTU agreed on a date and started planning the operation. Meanwhile the park staff was planning as well, and a few days before the activation, an article appeared in the Beatrice Daily Sun announcing that the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club would be at Homestead National Monument to help celebrate 100 years of the National Parks Service.

On Saturday, January 23rd, the group of AARC members arrived at Homestead and began setting up in the Education Center and started setting up two stations. One on PSK-- using a Buddipole antenna, the other on SSB on an Out-backer antenna. The radios were setup in front of a mural depicting life on the plains during the early days of the Homestead Act. Anyone coming to the Education Center that day was greeted to the National Parks on the Air Banner.



Once the HF was setup and ready to go, K0CTU and KA0VNY headed out to catch a mid-morning satellite pass. That was a bit of a challenge with the 20 degree temperatures and the 20 mile an hour winds, but they did manage to make 7 contacts during the 5 minutes that the satellite was in view.

On HF, it didn't take long for the "chasers" to start answering the "CQ Parks CQ Parks" call and for nearly 5 hours the calls came fast and furious. Voice managed over 400 contacts and PSK more than 25. But that wasn't the only contacts that were made. Visitors and park staff were interested in what we were doing, and why. They were intrigued by PSK and always curious about where the voices on the radio were located, and of course.. "what do all those letters and numbers mean?".....(Continued on page 9)

NPOTA (from page 8)

The staff at the site was very accommodating, they kept the fire burning in the wood stove, and coffee brewed in the kitchen. They also asked a lot of questions about ham radio, and made a point of mentioning the operation to visitors and posted photos of the activation to their Facebook page. All in all, both the Homestead National Monument staff and the members of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club were happy with the event and those who were there look forward to going back to help celebrate Homestead Days this coming June. Or maybe before..

Saturday Night Coffee and Conversation

The AARC Coffee get together is held at the Village Inn restaurant at the southeast corner of 108th and L Streets in Omaha on the third Saturday of the month starting at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited.



A familiar sight outside of the American Red Cross Building at 81st & Spring Streets is the Ham Radio Antenna Tower . It has not been used by Hams in the past few years, however it has found to be a resting spot for passing birds this winter.



EQUIPMENT ADS

(Continued)

Non-Inductive Resistors

600 Ohm, 375 watts continuous. 1" X 18" ceramic. Good for high power rhombic or Beverage antenna termination. Six available. See picture at:

<http://www.aksarbenarc.org>.

\$20 each Contact: equipment@aksarbenarc.org.

Low Speed 120VAC Reversible Motor

Operates at 11 or 23 RPM in either direction. 1/4" output shaft. Simple to wire up. Includes capacitor for controlling direction. Great for a roller inductor or air variable in a remote tuner. Four available. See picture at:

<http://www.aksarbenarc.org>.

\$25 each Contact: equipment@aksarbenarc.org

Samsung CLP-510 - Two Printers for the Price of One

Industrial strength color laser printer. One works good the other burned-up its line cord - unknown problem. Includes documentation, ink cartridges, ink cartridge refill tools and instructions.

\$65 for both or best offer. Contact equipment@aksarbenarc.org

Complete HF Setup

Kenwood TS-870S AT (with DSP) HF Amateur band transceiver in excellent condition with the original manual, matching PS-52 Power Supply, SP-31 speaker, and MC-80 desk mic. A great looking and performing radio photos available at:

<http://www.aksarbenarc.org> or email equipment@aksarbenarc.org for details

Club Calendar

- Feb 4** 6:30 PM LARC License Exam. See <http://k0kkv.org/> for details.
- Feb 12** 7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St., Omaha, NE.
- Feb 13** 1:00 PM BARC License Exam, 11111 S. 84th St, Papillion, NE (inside the Mid-lands Hospital)
- Feb 16** 7:00 PM OMMRS Training,
- Feb 17** Heartland Hams Meeting, 403 Railroad Ave Glenwood, IA
- Feb 18** 7:30 PM.BARC Meeting, Masonic Hall Dining Room , 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE
- Feb 20** 6:30 PM, AARC Coffee & Conversation, Village Inn, 10770 M Street, Omaha
- Feb 23** 6:30 PM SWIARC License Testing Am Red Cross Loess Hills Chapter House, 705 N 16th Street Council Bluffs, IA
- Feb 25** 7:30 PM PARC Meeting 1900 E Military Ave Fremont, NE
- Feb 25** 7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting ,705 N 16th Street Council Bluffs, IA
-

OMMRS TRAINING

Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System (OMMRS) Volunteer Communication Recruiting and Training Committee is please to have John Weston has consented to do the presentation on Public Health at the February 16th Training session. The presentation will begin promptly at 7:00 pm at the Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services Building at 10629 Burt Circle in Omaha. Registration is not necessary, but appreciated to allow for adequate accommodations.

Please register at: <http://tinyurl.com/OMMRS-Feb16>

ARES MEETING

Douglas County ARES will have a meeting for all interested licensed amateur radio operators in the Omaha Metro area.

The meeting will be held Saturday February 20th at 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services Building at 10629 Burt Circle in Omaha.

This will be a great place for anyone interested in learning more about ARES to learn more and ask questions.

Topics will include:

SKYWARN Storm Spotting

Douglas County Siren Test

Omaha Metro Medical Response System (OMMRS)

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN)

Registration is not necessary, but appreciated to allow for adequate accommodations.

Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/DCARES-Feb20>

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

7:00 PM 147.360 QCWA Net, Chapter 210 (seasonal, October through March).

8:00 PM 50.200 6m SSB Net.

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 10-Meter Net.

8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.

8:00 PM 146.360 Heartland DX Association.

9:00 PM 28.305 10-Meter 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 3.896.500 3900 Club.

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

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

Please let us know of any updates or corrections to the above.