

FCC TO REINSTATE MORSE CODE TEST

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

"It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits FCC official

Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2014 - Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. "It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014.

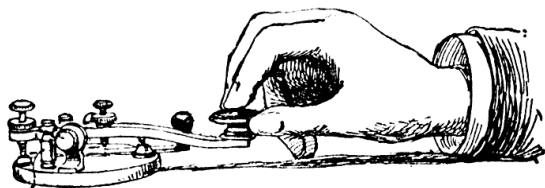
"This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No-Nonsense" amateur radio study guides and a leading amateur radio blogger. You can find his study guides by going to his blog at www.kb6nu.com. You can contact Dan by e-mail at cwgeek@kb6nu.com, or, after you pass the test, by CW. Look for him at the bottom of just about any HF band.



AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

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April 2014

Antenna Analyzers



Cam W7CAM on Antenna Analyzers

Cam Cushing, W7CAM, presented the topic for the March meeting: antenna analyzers. Using a slide show and some actual equipment (some provided by Mitch WB0GBI and the AARC equipment committee), he covered both theory and practical information on how to use an antenna analyzer to adjust an antenna for peak performance.

Unfortunately, he wasn't able to provide as much practical information as he'd originally intended. His car broke down on the way to the meeting and, though he'd gotten a ride, he'd forgotten to transfer the dipole that he was going to use as a demo. Nevertheless, he managed to make do with a handy talky with a standard rubber ducky, so he was still able to give an informative talk.

Cam started his talk by asking the rhetorical question, "why is tuning important?" (*Ans:* So they can hear you.) He then elaborated on this by pointing out that you tune an antenna to get maximum power from the transmitter to the antenna, and maximum sensitivity while receiving.

(Antenna Analyzers continued on page 9.)

SURVEY ENCLOSED

Fill it out, return it, and receive a gift for your efforts.
See the insert and *Prez Sez* on page 3 for details.

☞ **April Meeting: Everything...** ☞

The subject for the April meeting is *Everything you have ever wanted to know about...* "About what?" you may be wondering. Attend the meeting and find out.
Friday, April 11th, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring Streets, Omaha, NE.

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

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

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2014-2016 Director	Russ Rosenquist	NØMNW		n0mnw@yahoo.com
2014-2016 Director	Barb Westcott	KCØHLB	402-510-0308	barbwestcott@cox.net
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Vice Chairman	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
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EC Douglas County	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		
Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
NE Section Manager	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	402-580-5515	ka0boj@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	402-690-7965	ke0xq@cox.net

Address Change?

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

AARC on the Web

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

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

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

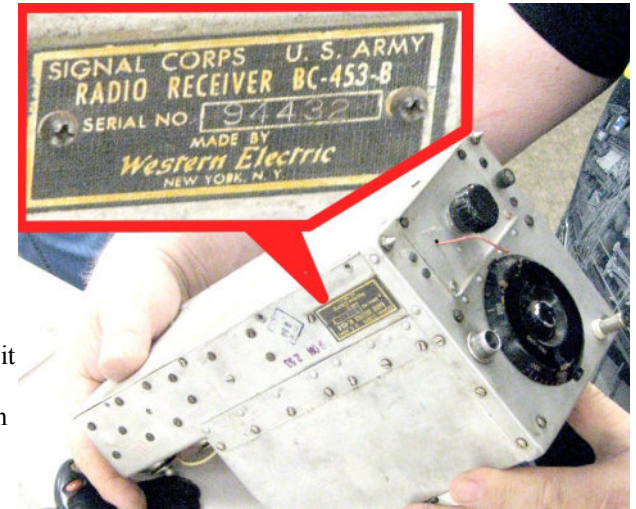
March Door Prizes

There were three door prizes this month, up one from last month.¹ "We're going for a bit more quantity, but still quality this time," implied Purveyor of Great Door Prizes, Rollie ABØNN.²

The first was the second in a series of books aimed to teach embedded processors using the Arduino microcontroller. Specifically, *Arduino for Dummies* by John Nussey. Understanding how to program and build circuits based on it provides a great opportunity for hams to create custom gear for their shacks. The other prizes included the *2014 ARRL Amateur Radio Calendar*, a packet of ACE Heavy-Duty Felt Blankets, and—of course—the Brown Bag Prize and the Mr. Reeh Door Prize.³

Unfortunately, the *Ham Hum* Door Prize staff reporter did not note, nor long remembered who drew the tickets. However, it was an honest drawing.

The ARRL Calender went to Adam KDØMMG, while Don WBØVGB was the lucky recipient of the ACE blankets. The Arduino book was awarded to Brian KDØSVD. Mitch WBØGGBI won the Brown Bag Prize, which turned out to be a pair of LED C-cell flashlights. The reluctant winner of the Mr. Reeh Door Prize was Dave NØJSB. After *carefully* opening the box (one never knows what may be inside), he pulled out a metal chassis sporting dials, wires, and connectors. Everyone was puzzled until the ever-knowledgeable Bill WA9ASD closely examined it and proclaimed it to be a venerable BC-453 navigation receiver, once highly prized by hams in the 1970s for its tuning characteristics.



Note that the proceeds for each month's tickets go for buying next month's prizes. Also, all tickets are kept and included in the Grand Prize drawing in December.

Bill KCØSVZ

1. This is not counting the Brown Bag Door Prize and the Mr. Reeh Door Prize, which are also quality door prizes. No, really. Honest.
2. He didn't actually say that, but the unstated implication was there. Call it editorial license.
3. Did anybody who read the March issue make the connection between the person in the picture on page 8 and the comment written on the Mr. Reeh Door Prize wrapper above his head? Did anybody read *this*, for that matter?



Want Ads

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

For Sale: ARRL Repeater Directory 2011-2012 Desktop Edition. Spiral binding. Excellent condition. Includes 21,800+ repeaters around the country, D-Star, and APCO-25. Has operating practices, emergency messaging handling, tips for dealing with interference, SKYWARN/NWS severe weather reporting guidelines, and more. Price \$5. Contact any AARC officer at the next meeting, or send an email to the club at the following URL: <http://tinyurl.com/kyhwwvn>

For Sale: IC-HM7 Microphone. Icom hand-held dynamic microphone with built-in preamplifier. In excellent cosmetic condition with light signs of use, wire and insulation is excellent, no drying/cracking, or kinks. PTT button has good positive spring action. Has an 8 pin connector installed. Price \$30. Contact any AARC officer at the next meeting, or send an email to the club at the following URL: <http://tinyurl.com/18o8oxn>

For Sale: Vintage Harvey-Wells Station R-9A receiver, T90 transmitter, Z-Matcher, APS90 power supply (120 VAC transmitter power supply), VPS-T91 (6 VDC power supply for transmitter), VPS-R9 (6 VDC power supply for receiver). Complete station from the middle 50s. Price \$250 or best offer. *Also:* R-9A receiver, \$65. T90 transmitter, \$50. TS-90 transmitter, \$50. No power supplies available for either transmitter but requirements are modest. Contact Bill WA9ASD to purchase. Email: williamtrue@aol.com.

HELP!

The YLs have suggested to the OMs we clean house, this time they mean it!
Over 100+ years of Ham Radio, Electronics, Test Equipment

May 3, 2014

Nebraska City, NE "Home of Arbor Day"

Location will be Tom's Radio Business on the top of Kearney Hill under the big tower! Take Highway 2 bypass to the exit for Victorian Acres Campground, but turn right on Kearney Hill road for .44 miles. We will be posting on Google Photos of items being sold. Send me your email address and we will send you links. davidjmessaging@gmail.com

Coordinates of the location is 40°39'57.1"N 95°50'25.2"W. Talk-in will be KØTIK 146.70

You can join the fun by bringing your own stuff and a table. We are cleaning out the shack on strict orders, so help us out. KØRWM 1958 55 Years KØTIK 1959 54 years for total of 109 years of gear. The YLs are also having a garage sale, bring your better half. Tom's email: tomwurtele@yahoo.com



Prez Sez

One of the most important functions of any club is making sure that its members are happy with it. After all, to keep a club like ours running is a bit of work, and if we don't all enjoy it, why waste that time? In an attempt to get a better feeling for what everyone here wants to get out of the club, the board and I have created a short 10 question survey we would like you to fill out for us. You can find it here in your *Ham Hum*.

We plan to use the information from this survey to choose the events that the club participates in, and hopefully create some new activities that you will enjoy. If you are going to be at the next club meeting please fill it out and bring it with you. Otherwise, you can mail it to the club at:

Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 24551
Omaha, NE 68124-0551

Or you can complete it online at <http://goo.gl/9NDNH6>. However you complete it, I look forward to reading what you have to say.

Adam KDØMMG, President AARC

Club Calendar

- Apr 9** 7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
- Apr 11** 7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
- Apr 12** HBQRP. No meeting planned due to OzarkCon 2014.
- Apr 12** 9:00 AM MS Walk. Stinson Park, 2285 S. 67th ST, Omaha, NE.
- Apr 16** 7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
- Apr 17** 7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
- Apr 19** 8:00 AM Ararat Hambash, Kansas City, MO. (<http://www.hambash.com/>)
- Apr 19** 8:00 AM DMRAA Hamfest, Des Moines, IA. (<http://dmraa.com/>)
- Apr 19** 6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
- Apr 22** 6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, NE.
- Apr 24** 7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
- Apr 24** 7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16th, Council Bluffs, IA.
- Apr 26** 10:00 AM Public Safety Expo. Westroads Mall, Omaha, NE.
- May 4** 12:00 AM Star Wars Day. Galaxy Far, Far Away.
- May 9** 7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
- May 10** 1:00 PM BARC VE Session, 1111 S. 84th St. Bellevue, IA.
- May 14** 7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
- May 15** 7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
- May 17** 6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
- May 21** 7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
- May 22** 7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
- May 22** 7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16th, Council Bluffs, IA.
- May 23** State Track Meet (thru May 24).

(Club Calendar continued on page 8.)

Club Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2013

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by the President Adam. KDØMMG by saying the Pledge of Allegiance followed with introductions by name and call . There were 29 attendees.

Officers and Board members present included: Adam, KDØMMG; Mitch, WBØGBI; Dave, NØJSB; Bill, WA9ASD; Barb, KCØHLB; and Russ NØMNW.

Secretary's Report - Bill, WA9ASD - The minutes of the February meeting were published in *Ham Hum*. A motion was made by Mary, NØTRK, seconded by Jim, KAØKCV to accept the February club meeting minutes as published in *Ham Hum*. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Dave, NØJSB - In the month of February Dave reported that there were deposits of dues for \$112, a donation of \$12 from NW7US, and \$24.35 for refreshments. Payments consisted of \$23.20 for meeting refreshments, \$200 for the deposit on the Flea-Esta facility, and a \$3 bank fee. There was also a donation of \$10 to the repeater fund. This leaves the balance of all the club accounts at \$22,115.80.

President's Report - Adam, KDØMMG - Adam reported that at the last Board Meeting there was a discussion on what is the purpose of the club and how to insure that the purpose is being met.

Vice President's Report - Mitch, WBØGBI - Mitch reported that members should know that there is a club net on 28.350 MHz every Thursday night at 8 PM. This is a chance for Technicians and other club members to meet on HF. He also reported that tonight's program is on antenna analyzers by Cam, W7CAM.

Public Service

- ARES - Steve, NØUP - Steve reported that the annual Douglas County Siren Test went well and he thanked everyone who participated and made it a success. He also announced that Spotter Training will be held on March 25 at Boys Town. There will also be Spotter Training at the Bellevue Fire Department Training Academy on March 27.
- SATERN - Jim Westcott, KAØKCV - Jim reported that he has been in contact with Jim, KCØSHZ about working on getting a station put together and on the air.
- OMMRS - Mary, NØTRK - Mary reported that the annual training will be in October or November. She also reported that the Major Accident Response Exercise will be on Saturday morning of Field Day weekend. It is unknown how many hospitals will be included.
- Community Events - Pat, KØCTU - The next event will be the MS Walk on April 12. It is a small event and is a good time to get some exposure to working on an event. Contact Pat for more information.

Education Committee - Mary, NØTRK - Mary reported that we would like to have a class before the question pool changes at the end of June but nothing specific is planned right now.

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

(Antenna Analyzers continued from page 1.)

He went on to discuss some theory, including the four measures of antenna tuning (impedance matching, reflection coefficient, return loss, and SWR) and the importance of imaginary numbers in analyzing how reflected signals contribute to standing waves. Using animated slides, he demonstrated the concept behind reflection coefficient and the equations used to describe it and standing wave ratio. (For details, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reflection_coefficient)

Though the theory behind a standing wave can be complex, Cal pointed out that the circuits for measuring it are quite simple when considering the voltage component of the wave (VSWR). He then went on to discuss some of the practical considerations of tuning antennas. This included the location—why it's important to tune the antenna where it's to be used—and how it's loaded.

As an example, he pointed out that the impedance of your head affects the loading of a hand-held transceiver and that handy-talky manufacturers take that into account when they design their products. Cal demonstrated this by using an Autek analyzer and showing how the VSWR of a rubber duck antenna varied when held his head and when held away and gripped in his hand (it went up). He went on to other practical matters such as what parts of an antenna can be used to tune it. As noted at the beginning, he was only able to show some drawings as he didn't have the demo antenna with him.

He was, however, able to demonstrate some analyzers. This included the aforementioned Autek (\$180), the club's MFJ-259 (\$300), and the Agilent N9923 (\$25,000). The latter instrument was the most interesting, as it can produce digital readouts, waveforms, and real-time graphs of the antenna being measured.

The session ended with a Q&A session and general discussion about the relative merits of antenna analyzers, basic VSWR bridges, and grid dip meters. In all, it was an entertaining and educational evening.

[Note: Besides spending his free time tuning amateur radio antennas, Cam has spent his professional time tuning MRI scanners and working with other medical equipment for such organizations as ScanMed of Resonance Innovations LLC, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and Iowa State University.]

Bill KCØSVZ



(Club Calendar continued from page 3.)

- May 27** 6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, NE.
May 27 6:30 PM AARC VE Session, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.
May 31 8:30 AM HARA Hamfest. Lexington, NE (<http://www.qsl.net/hara/>)
Jun 21 Kid's Day
Jun 28 Field Day (thru June 29).
Sep 6 Flea-esta. Sarpy County Fairgrounds, Springfield, NE.
Sep 27 3900 Club Hamboree. Firefighters Hall, 2108 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.

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

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.
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 3.896.000 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.

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 4.)

Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK – Reminder, cards have been sent out to perverted members who have not paid their dues yet for this year.

Publications/Web Services

- *Ham Hum* - Bill, KCØSVZ - *Ham Hum* is out.
- Web Site - Mary, NØTRK - It's there.

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

Field Day - Tomas, NW7US - no report.

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

Courtesy Committee - Bill, KEØXQ - A reminder that Chuck Rush, NØAZ recently passed away. He was a long time call sign trustee.

Trailer/Equipment Committee - Mary, NØTRK - We will be selling some club equipment at the Lincoln Hamfest tomorrow. You have seen it listed in Ham Hum and on the club web site. Much of it is already loaded in our cars we have here tonight so if you want to purchase something this is your last chance.

The carrying case and instructions for the club antenna analyzer have arrived.

Flea-Esta - Chris Rice - The building at the Sarpy County Fairgrounds has been reserved and the deposit paid. D & L Antennas will be attending. We are working on getting another vendor to attend. There will flyers available to take to Lincoln tomorrow. We need volunteers. Volunteer early and often. We will be setting up on September 5 and the Flea-Esta will be September 6th.

Public Awareness - Adam reported that he participated in the Boy Scout merit badge event and the scouts were excited about ham radio and Adam had a great time working with the scouts.

Old Business - none

New Business – none

Announcements - Cookies and coffee are available in the lunchroom - please donate to help fund these delights.

The Lincoln Hamfest is tomorrow from 8:30 until 2 PM.

Door Prize Committee - Rollie, ABØNN - Rollie announced the door prizes of an *Arduino For Dummies* book, an ARRL calendar and some non-slip paper. The Brown Bag Door Prize and the Mr. Reeh Door Prize are also available. All tickets purchased throughout the year are saved and used in the December prize drawing.

At 7:28 PM a motion was made by John, WBØCMC, seconded by Steve, NØUP to end the meeting. Passed unanimously.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC



Veep Speaks

The program for our April meeting will be "Everything you wanted to know about....." which is being given by some members of our club. Be sure to attend to see this intriguing program.

I worked *CQ* magazine's WPX contest last weekend. This is a DX contest where you try to work as many different call sign prefixes as you can on the 160 through 10 meter bands.

The 10, 15, and 20 meter bands were really packed with DX stations. Working just some of the contest I easily managed to contact 74 counties. The 10 meter band was open well after sunset, and the 20 meter band was open for DX until about 1:30 AM local time. The point of this is that the upper ham bands have had very good propagation lately, which should continue for some time. We seem to be entering a second sunspot peak in this cycle, so if you like to work DX or just get on the upper bands, now is the time.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ARRL, members of the ARRL are selected to operate the ARRL's call sign in each state from their own station for a week at two different times during 2014. If you contact W1AW in all 50 states, you can get a great certificate from the ARRL showing that you have attained your WAS award (Worked All States) working only W1AW. This is a once in a hundred years opportunity! The weekly schedule of two states each week is on the ARRL web site as are the other details. And if you miss a state one week, it will be on one other week during the year. So far I have worked W1AW in 9 states, and it is easy to do because of the good band conditions lately.

Remember the local 10 meter net on Thursdays at 8 PM on 28.350. It is a great opportunity if you have a Tech license to get on HF. Anybody is welcome as well. There is a local 6 meter net on Tuesday at 8:00 PM on 50.200 that some of our members check in to as well. They are both friendly nets where you can check out how well your rigs and different antennas are working.

Mitch WBOGBI, Vice President AARC

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The next AARC Board Meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2014, 6:30 PM at the Village Inn on 78th and Dodge Streets. Unless noted otherwise, Board meetings take place at that time and location on the fourth Tuesday of the month. For any changes to this schedule, check for an announcement at the next Club meeting, or on the AARC web page at <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>.

You may be a ham radio operator if...you have looked for antennas, radios, and Morse Code in movies and television shows.

Contest Calendar

April 2014

ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 8
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 9
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 9 & 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 10
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 11
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 12 to 1300Z, Apr 13
OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1200Z, Apr 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Apr 12 to 2400Z, Apr 13
New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 12 to 0200Z, Apr 13
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 12
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 0359Z, Apr 13 & 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 13
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 12 to 2100Z, Apr 13
International Vintage Contest HF	1200Z-1800Z, Apr 13
Hungarian Straight Key Contest	1500Z-1700Z, Apr 13
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 15
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 16 & 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 17
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 16
ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party	0001Z, Apr 17 to 2359Z, Apr 22
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 18
Holyland DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 18 to 2100Z, Apr 19
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 19
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 19
CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 19 to 2359Z, Apr 20
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 19
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19 to 1800Z, Apr 20
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 19 to 1700Z, Apr 20
Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 21
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 23 & 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 24
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 23
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 24
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 25
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 26 to 2359Z, Apr 27
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 26 to 1200Z, Apr 27
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 26 to 1259Z, Apr 27
QRP to the Field	1500Z, Apr 26 to 0300Z, Apr 27
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 26 to 2159Z, Apr 27
BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2100Z, Apr 27
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 30 & 0300Z-0400Z, May 1

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AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, May 1 (CW) & 1900Z-2000Z, May 1 (SSB) & 2000Z-2100Z, May 1 (FM) & 2100Z-2200Z, May 1 (Dig)
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 2
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local, May 3
QRP to the Field	1200Z-2359Z, May 3
ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 3 to 1159Z, May 4
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 3 to 0400Z, May 4
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 2400Z, May 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 6

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

SURVEY

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey for us. With a hobby with as many things to offer as ham radio we want to make sure that our club is providing our members with the kinds of activities they most enjoy. **Anyone who completes this survey will receive a gift from the club as a thank you for your input.** (Check all that apply)

1. What attracted you to ham radio?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> technology | <input type="checkbox"/> awards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> talking around the world | <input type="checkbox"/> public service work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer use | <input type="checkbox"/> electronics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> contests | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |

2. How did you prepare for your license exam(s)?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> class | <input type="checkbox"/> other books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> license manual | <input type="checkbox"/> partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self study | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |

3. What is your favorite operating activity on your station?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> contest | <input type="checkbox"/> technical nets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> awards | <input type="checkbox"/> traffic handling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> casual conversation | <input type="checkbox"/> satellites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nets | <input type="checkbox"/> repeater use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DX | <input type="checkbox"/> listening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public service | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |

4. What do you like to do with other hams in person?

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> meet for coffee, meals, or dessert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public service,(walks/runs, parades, athletic events) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> emergency communications (weather alerts, disasters, drills, preparedness classes, planning) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> club meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public awareness (information booth, radio, TV, press coverage, schools) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fox hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hamfests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

5. What age groups do you like to participate with?

- under 12 12-18 19-30 31-60 60+

6. Do you do ham radio things other than operating?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> build equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> put up antennas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> repair equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> hamfests/flea markets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> teach classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reading | <input type="checkbox"/> help new hams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> emergency communications | <input type="checkbox"/> public service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |

7. Why did you join AARC?

8. What do you like about the club?

9. What would you change about the club?

10. What do you like about the program presentations?

Thanks again for filling out our survey. We would like to be able to talk to you about your survey responses so we would like to know who you are. However if you wish this survey to be anonymous, we still look forward to your feedback.

Call Sign: _____
(optional)

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