("Dumbest Things" continued from page 10.)

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# **Ham Hum**

Volume LX. Issue 10

October 2010

## **QRP Club Goes on a Lark in the Park**



KAØNCR and KMØY Tune in a German Net

It was a fine day for the Midwest Home Brewers and QRP group (HBQRP) to set up rigs in the city park east of Ashland, Nebraska. The sun was shining and a light breeze kept the temperature pleasant.

On Saturday, September 11th, club members met at the Breadeaux Pizza restaurant on 1425 Silver Street at 11 a.m. for lunch. Present were Arnie KAØNCR. Bill KCØSVZ, Brian KMØY, Christine NØRIS, Joe KØNEB, Michael W8MZ, and Raymund N5SEZ. After eating plenty of food that tasted too good to be healthy, the group left for the park shortly after noon and began setting up their equipment.

At the park, Steve WBØQQT also arrived. He, like most of us, didn't bring radios, but was there to watch, enjoy the company, help out, and maybe do some operating. Three people did set up four transceivers and managed to get on the air, though no contacts were made.

(Lark... continued on page 6.)

I don't know what was going through Tim's mind at this point, but it probably wasn't good. Larry then explained that he probably sent out that MRC before he got the stamp. When we confirmed those dates, I think Tim breathed a little easier.

In the end, Clark and I signed off on Tim's application. And, even though Mark and I joke about how dumb this activity is, it's really only a joke. In my mind, it's quite an achievement. It takes a lot of persistence, too. It took Tim nearly ten years to do it.

Another cool thing about the county hunting sub-culture is the camaraderie amongst the county hunters. It's the nature of the beast that you'll be contacting many of them multiple times, and it's inevitable that you'll make friends with many of them.

As we were leaving, Tim said, "My wife asked me the other day if I could now get rid of all my radios since I've talked to everybody." She obviously doesn't understand this ham radio sub-culture. Tim's only just begun.

You can keep up with all of Dan's dumb ham radio activities by reading his blog at http://www.kb6nu.com. When Dan's not doing dumb ham radio things, he programs websites and does community-service type stuff as a member of the Ann Arbor (MI, USA) Rotary Club. You can email him at <a href="mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com">cwgeek@kb6nu.com</a>.

### **Crop Walk Volunteers Needed**

Sunday, October 10th, is the annual Crop Walk for Hunger Relief. We need a few operators for the event. The walk will be in the afternoon starting at about 1:00 PM and should last about 2-1/2 hours. The walk starts at the First Christian Church at 66th and Dodge, on the North side of Dodge. The longest distance they will be walking is 5 miles. We will be stationed at various points along the walk route. Check in on 146.94. We'll be using the repeater for operations.

Send me an e-mail at k0ctu@arrl.net if you can join in on the fun.

Pat KØCTU

### **Upcoming Events**

Oct 8	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Red Cross, Omaha.
Oct 8	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Red Cross, Omaha.
Oct 9	Market-to-Market Relay, 5:30 a.m. Old Market, Omaha.
Oct 10	Crop Walk, 1:00 p.m. First Christian Church, 66th & Dodge, Omaha.
Oct 16	Saturday Night Coffee, 6 p.m. Perkins, 108 <sup>th</sup> & L Streets, Omaha.
Nov 12	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Red Cross, Omaha.
Nov 12	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Red Cross, Omaha.

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.

C11-	$\alpha$ cc	0- D -	1 ` ` \ /	· 1
Cillin	Officers	W. BO	ara ivi	empers
Ciui	CHICCIS	$\alpha$	ai a ivi	CHILL

President Vice President 2009-2010 Board (Secretary) 2009-2010 Board	John Gebuhr Bill McCollum Greg Carlson Marvin Taylor	WBØCMC KEØXQ N7JOD AEØEG	402-932-3443 402-690-7965 402-305-2009 402-556-3668	wb0cmc@cox.net ke0xq@cox.net revgreg1@gmail.com AE0EG@arrl.net
2010-2011 Board	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
2010-2011 Board	Dick Jones	N6KVA		n6kva@arrl.net
	Standing C	ommitte	e Chairs	
Public Service/Emergency	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
Education	1			or more information
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Publications	Bill Wilkinson	KCØSVZ	402-397-8803	kc0svz@yahoo.com
Web Services	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7774	wa0zqg@yahoo.com
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL		k0il@arrl.net
Prizes	Rollie Miller	ABØNN		
	Repeate	er Comm	ittee	
Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net
Vice Chairman	Darrel Swenson	KØAWB	402-690-0000	dswenson@wearne.net
Member	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Club Callsign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net
Other Contacts				
Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph	KØCTU	402-492-9156	ppjoseph@cox.net
ARRL Midwest Director	Clifford Ahrens	KØCA	573-221-8618	k0ca@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS		
NE Section Manager	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	402-421-0839	K0AIZ@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		ke0xq@cox.net
EC Douglas County	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		

#### **October Meeting**

The next meeting of the AARC will be on Friday, October 8th at 7:30 p.m. The location is the Heartland Chapter House of the American Red Cross at 81st and Spring (near 84th and Center). The speaker will be Joe Eisenberg, KØNEB, subject to be determind.

#### **AARC on the Web**

Club Web Site: http://www.aksarbenarc.org/main/

Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=325594348836">http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=325594348836</a>
Yahoo! Groups: <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AKSARBENtalk/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AKSARBENtalk/</a>

### **September Business Meeting Minutes**

Note: The club board did not meet due to lack of a quorum.

The meeting started at 7:30 pm with 20-25 in attendance. Called to order by John, WBØCMC. Pledge to the flag. Attendance by call sign.

#### President's Report – John, WBØCMC

<u>Vice President's Report and Programs – Bill, KEØXQ</u> (home sick) Tonight's program: Art, KØAIZ, Nebraska Section Manager

#### Treasurer's Report – Marvin, AEØEG

Checking	215.35
MM Acct	5,041.99
Repeater	1,152.12
Repeater CD	2,306.81
CD	16,213.35
Total	24,929.62

Repeater – John, WBØCMC – seems to be working well.

#### Public Service – Pat, KØCTU

- CROP Walk October 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday from noon until 4 p.m.
- Market-to-Market Relay in Lincoln

#### Publications - Bill, KCØSVZ

Hums are out. Extras available. Printer still working well.

Education – Mary NØTRK – 18 and 25<sup>th</sup> September classes at Methodist

Membership – Mary, NØTRK

**Unfinished Business** 

#### **New Business**

- Mary, NØTRK about radios at Freedom Park. They want to make them look more real.
   Possibility of redoing a MARS station.
- The new Douglas Co EC is Steve, NØUP. Steve said meetings will probably be every other month beginning in July. His e-mail is NOUP@cox.net.

#### Other:

- Raffle tonight Rollie, ABØNN has door prizes. Chances at \$1 or six for \$5
- VE exam end of 28 September at 6:30pm at Red Cross (contact will now be K9RZ, Bill Jackson)
- QRP club tomorrow at 11a.m. at the Breadeaux Pizza in Ashland, NE.
- Lincoln's ARC in March, 2011
- Other items as per the Ham Hum
- Health and Welfare: Dick, N6KVA is in the hospital. Claudia, KCØSQX is busy with him and may not be able to be at Field Day.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. for program followed by coffee at Perkin's on 108<sup>th</sup> and L streets

Greg Carlson, N7JOD, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary

#### One of the Dumbest Things I've Ever Done in Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU (Reprinted with permission.)

Mark, W8MP, and I often argue about what's dumber—his county hunting or my collecting QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. It's one of those arguments that will never be won. When you get right down to it, they're both pretty dumb.

Well, one Wednesday morning, I got a call from Mark. He asked, "Hey, want to do something really dumb tonight?" When I asked what he had in mind, he replied, "Well, one of my county hunter friends, Tim, W8JJ claims to have confirmed all 3,077 counties. He needs at least two General Class (or higher) hams to check his QSL cards and sign off on his application for the USA-CA award sponsored by CQ magazine. I guarantee that this will be one of the dumbest things that you ever do in ham radio. I also guarantee that it will be a lot of fun."

After a fine salmon dinner with some very chewy noodles (that Mark claims his son, KD8EEH insisted that he make), we cleared the table, and Tim got out his box of cards. Mark then explained how we should proceed. I was kind of curious about this, as it's clearly impossible to check all 3,077 QSOs in a single evening.

Basically, what the two checkers are supposed to do is to check random contacts until they are satisfied that the applicant does indeed have a QSL from all 3,077 counties. To select the contacts, you might choose counties where you lived, or counties that you have visited. I hit on the idea of having Tim produced the confirmations of all 16 counties in Massachusetts. Clark, who is more familiar with which counties are the most difficult to confirm, asked Tim to produce cards from some rare counties in Colorado and Hawaii.

Above all, though, the idea is to give the applicant as much grief as possible during the process.

Mark came up with the idea of calling several county hunters that he had phone numbers for and asking them to verify in their logs some of the QSOs that Tim was claiming. He first phoned Jim, N9JF, and we asked him about a 44 report that he'd given Tim seven years ago. He wasn't near his logbook, but he said that he did remember that contact and even rattled off the county (Wahkiakum, WA)!

Next, Mark phoned Guff, KS5A, who confirmed a contact, but was off by almost seven minutes. A long discussion ensued regarding the details of how a mobile logs contacts while out driving. In the end, we accepted the seven-minute discrepancy.

Finally, Mark phoned Larry, WØQE, to confirm a few of the MRCs that Tim had from him. (MRCs are records of multiple contacts. Using them instead of QSL cards makes the process of managing all these QSLs a lot easier.) Mark joked that it looked like one of the MRCs had a forged signature. Larry replied that all of his MRCs are stamped.

"Aha," Clark exclaimed, "this MRC doesn't have a stamp!"

("Dumb Things" continues on page 12.)

#### **Contest Calendar**

#### <u>October, 2010</u>

YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest 1400Z, Oct 8 to 0200Z, Oct 10 Makrothen RTTY Contest 0000Z-0759Z, 600Z-2359Z Oct 9; 0800Z-1559Z Oct 10 Oceania DX Contest, CW 0800Z, Oct 9 to 0800Z, Oct 10 1200Z, Oct 9 to 1200Z, Oct 10 Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB WAB HF Phone 1200Z, Oct 9 to 1200Z, Oct 10 1600Z, Oct 9 to 0600Z, Oct 10 & 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 10 Arizona OSO Party EU Autumn Sprint, CW 1600Z-1959Z, Oct 9 Pennsylvania QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 9 to 0500Z, Oct 10 & 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 10 FISTS Fall Sprint 1700Z-2100Z, Oct 9 SKCC Weekend Sprint 0000Z-2400Z, Oct 10 North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0400Z, Oct 10 10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint 0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10 UBA ON Contest, CW 0600Z-1000Z, Oct 10 NAOCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Oct 13 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1100Z-1200Z, 1900Z-2000Z Oct 13; 0300Z-0400Z Oct 14 RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW 1900Z-2030Z, Oct 14 JARTS WW RTTY Contest 0000Z, Oct 16 to 2400Z, Oct 17 Microwave Fall Sprint 0600 local - 1200 local, Oct 16 ARCI Fall OSO Party 1200Z, Oct 16 to 2400Z, Oct 17 Iowa QSO Party 1400Z-2300Z, Oct 16 New York QSO Party 1400Z, Oct 16 to 0200Z, Oct 17 Worked All Germany Contest 1500Z, Oct 16 to 1459Z, Oct 17 Feld Hell Sprint 2000Z-2200Z, Oct 16 PODXS 070 Club 160m Great 2000 local, Oct 16 to 0200 local, Oct 17 Pumpkin Sprint Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW 0000Z-0200Z, Oct 17 0600Z-1000Z, Oct 17 UBA ON Contest, 2m Illinois OSO Party 1700Z, Oct 17 to 0100Z, Oct 18 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 0100Z-0300Z, Oct 18 Araucaria VHF Contest 0000Z, Oct 23 to 1600Z, Oct 24 FOC QSO Party 0000Z-2359Z, Oct 23 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW 0001Z, Oct 23 to 2359Z, Oct 24 Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Oct 23 to 1500Z, Oct 24 W/VE Islands QSO Party 1600Z. Oct 23 to 2359Z. Oct 24 SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Oct 27 RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB 1900Z-2030Z, Oct 27 CO Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 30 to 2400Z, Oct 31 ARRL EME Contest 0000Z, Oct 30 to 2359Z, Oct 31 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital 0001Z, Oct 30 to 2359Z, Oct 31

#### November, 2010

50 MHz Fall Sprint

<u>November, 2010</u>	
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Nov 2
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 6 to 1200Z, Nov 7
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 6 to 0300Z, Nov 8
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 7 and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 7
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Nov 7
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1100Z-1200Z, Nov 10 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 10 and 0300Z-
0400Z, Nov 11	
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 11

For details check: <a href="http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html">http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html</a>

2300Z, Oct 30 to 0300Z, Oct 31

### **Boosting Club Membership**

Editor's Note: The following was submitted by Bill True, WA9ASD. Written by him, it originally appeared in the January 1988 issue of the Ham Hum "Prez Says" column. His suggestions are still good ones.

I just got back from the Christmas party and I'm sitting here wondering what to write for this months (my first) Prez Says column. First of all thanks for the opportunity to be president of the club (why am I thanking them, this might be work!), Thanks anyway — I'm looking forward to the next year, Why am I looking forward to this? Why am I even a member of this club? Why am I a Ham even? Well, uh, er hummmm, well ham radio is fun, isn't it? Most of it is. Getting home from work to hear 10M close as the T41 Alpha we needed disappears into the noise isn't fun. Having to restring our dipole in the snow during Super Bowl halftime isn't' fun — but most of the hobby IS fun. It's enjoyable, relating and diverts our attention from the frustrations of work or household chores or family pressures. It lets us get away in a number of ways. Some activities in Ham radio are even fun with other people. Like talking on the radio — like Field Day.— like solving the world's problems (or the repeater's problems) over a late night cup of coffee with another ham. Those fun parts of Ham radio with another person or people is why we have a club. The club is one of the ways we get away from the problems and do fun Ham radio things with other people, like the Christmas party; like Field Day; like having someone else string our dipole in the snow. So what does all this mean? Well, some of the Hams in the club are our friends and some of our friends are Hams and some of these people we call friends don't do the fun together things with our Ham (and non-Ham) friends in the club. Our friends should have as much (but not more) fun as we do — right? RIGHT! Well let's bring them along. Well, bring someone along to a club meeting to have fun. Club meetings fun? Dull! Dull! And boring! Some of it is (you can't fool all of the people all of the time) but then let's make the club meetings more fun.

Let's try another — easier — topic. Bring someone along to a tower raising party to enjoy the homemade chili afterwards, Let's bring someone along to a higher class of license so they can enjoy 75M phone 2M DXing, or fixing their own antenna. Are we having fun yet? Bring someone along to the transmitter hunt (so they can carry the equipment through the mud). You think of the rest of the fun things (dinner's ready) but do bring someone along - do have fun and do tell me how to make the club more fun — that's why we're in this.

Are we having fun yet?

73, Bill WA9 A Silly Dilly

Bill True may be contacted at 402-426-2813, email: williammtrue@aol.com

### **Prez Sez**

There is not a lot to say this month. Bill KEØXQ has an interesting program arranged, but I'll let him tell it. We are in the process of nominations, so let me or Bill know before the November Hum deadline so nominations can be published in that issue.

I hope to see y'all at the October 8th meeting.

John WBØCM



### **Veep Speeks**

I want to thank our Section Manager, Art KØAIZ for presenting the program at the September meeting.

On Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, I came down with a severe inner ear infection in my right ear. My doctor prescribed pain pills that made me very drowsy and told me

to stay away from work for a few days. Both ear canals were swollen shut and I had to resort to communicating with a pad and pencil. I couldn't hear the TV, so I turned on the closed captioning feature so I could at least read what was being said. My doctor said it probably a fungus I got due to sweating and the warm weather.

The program for the October meeting will be presented by Joe Eisenberg, KØNEB. I am leaving it up to Joe to determine the program. It could be about the Dayton Hamvention, kit building, pirate radio and etc. I am sure it will be a very entertaining evening. Hope to see you at the meeting.

73, Bill KEØXQ

### Silent Key: Richard L. Jones, N6KVA

Dick Jones, N6KVA, of Omaha, Nebraska, passed away on September 30, 2010. He was 64.

Dick earned his Technician License in 2000, upgraded to General in 2002, and was an active member of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club. He participated in various Club activities such as Field Day, Ham Fests, various ham-related community events. At various times he served on the Board of Directors and was the Club AARC Club Vice President in 2004 and 2009.

Dick was survived by his wife, Claudia Peterson KCØSQX, his son Mike Jones of Ozark, MO, and granddaughter Noel Jones.

### **Saturday Night Coffee was Technical**

AARC members met at Perkins Restaurant on 108<sup>th</sup> & L streets in Omaha on September 18<sup>th</sup> for coffee, food, and conversation. Chuck KDØBWI was the first to arrive at 6 p.m. Others began arriving shortly after: Bill KCØSVZ, Dick KBØKJV, Mary NØTRK, Pat KØCTU, Christina NØRIS, and Claudia KCØSQX.

KDØBWI, incidentally clarified why the Perkins staff is sometimes confused when someone from AARC shows up Saturday and tells them that they're here for the ham radio club meeting: The person at the counter would tell them that they missed it because the meeting was yesterday. It turns out that the Heartland DX Association has their meeting at Perkins on the third Friday of the month and the Perkins people apparently just focus on the word "radio."

The conversation at the AARC get together turned out to be on the technical side tonight, though other subjects were touched.

Chuck talked about his experiences communicating with the International Space Station, NAISS, on 2 meters. The station is used for a number of activities, including cross-band repeater, packet radio, SSTV, and voice. It's used for voice over the United States and Col. Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC, is on the air. Region 2 frequencies for voice are 145.825 MHz uplink and 145.80 MHz down. Chuck stated that most 2-meter antennas will work with contacting NAISS and even a handy-talky may work. For tracking the location of the ISS, Chuck uses Ham Radio Deluxe, a Windows program that may be downloaded from <a href="http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/">http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/</a>. (Note: More information on NAISS operation and frequencies can be found at <a href="http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/">http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/</a>.)

Other topics discussed were OnStar, how SWR was measured, antenna grounding techniques, defibrillators, and CB radio in the 70s. Mary reported that the Technician License class she's teaching was going well and—though some of the new questions were harder—she didn't see problems with newcomers getting their tickets.

Chuck showed a video on his laptop of a man climbing a 1200-foot antenna—possibly to change a light bulb. Pat had one he'd taken of KFAB Radio's Tom Becka rappelling down the Woodmen Tower in a Spiderman suit. The latter was part of a fund-raising event for the Boy Scouts of America called "Over the Edge" that had taken place earlier that day.

The topic drifted to volunteerism and related subjects. At random, these were: The Red Cross and their support of ham radio. Few people realize that REACT no longer uses CB as their primary means of communication. OMMRS not getting enough people. Problems with people showing up at disasters to help out, but not having any training—or trained, but not using the proper channels to donate their services. No AARC flea market so far this year due to shortage of volunteers. Steve N0UP was working on that, but got tapped as Emergency Coordinator for Douglas County, which preempted other tasks.

In all, it was an excellent "meeting" that lasted until past 10 p.m. There was good food, good conversation, and good company.

KØAIZ Talks About Ham Radio in Nebraska

The featured speaker for the October meeting was the ARRL Section Manager for Nebraska, Art Zygielbaum KØAIZ. He gave an interesting presentation using slides and videos while talking about the past, present, and future of amateur radio—with emphasis on where it's going in Nebraska.

Concerning the past, he pointed out that hams have always served the community—and emphasized it by playing a short video from an old Andy Hardy movie (from "Love Finds Andy Hardy," starring Mickey Rooney) where a young ham helps Andy's father contact his wife in an emergency. (Editor's Note: Incidentally, Norm WAØJYD thought he saw his call sign on one of the QSL cards mounted on the wall. When I checked into this, Mary NØTRK and others pointed out that the license number on the card was actually W6NYD. Ah, well.)

Back to the present, Art pointed out that while it's been tough to keep ham radio alive, policy changes such as dropping the code requirement from the exam is starting to bring up the amateur population; at least on the national level. On the other hand, it's been going down in Nebraska. Nevertheless, he feels that Nebraska is a great place for ham radio and has plans to help revitalize interest here.

To do so, he's looking for new ideas—such as provide funding for new hams, setting up an Elmers Squad to help with technical problems when needed, create VE visiting teams to remote areas of Nebraska, and greater support for contests in Nebraska. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Art is also looking for ways to improve emergency communications and public service. This includes a Nebraska equipment pool so that radios can be sent to where they're needed, better laws against interference on emergency bands, and protect the loss of frequencies above 2 meters. A long-range plan would be to set up an EMP-proof radio network. This would provide communications if most other circuits are destroyed from the electromagnetic pulse created by certain types of nuclear air bursts. Interestingly, he pointed out that vacuum tube circuits tend to be robust enough to better survive such a catastrophe.

Another area that Art said needs work is to reduce the conflict between ARES and RACES. Both the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARRL based) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (sponsored by the Federal Government) perform similar functions, but many times try to protect their own "turf;" which reduces efficiency and causes other problems during an emergency. He emphasized this by showing a short humorous video of a dog biting his own leg. He believe's that RACES needs to be revitalized and perhaps the two groups merged. Suggestions are welcome.

Finally, Art mentioned the formation of an emergency services group using technology similar to D-Nebraska and the Cactus Intertie System. Still in the early planning stages, this would be a system based on D-Star technology and would provide statewide seamless voice and data communication.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, you may email Art at k0aiz@arrl.org

Bill KCØSVZ

Bill KCØSVZ

(Lark...continued from page 1.)

Arnie KAØNCR was the first to get his system going. It was an Icom IC-703 and AlexLoop capacity-coupled antenna—which he operated by holding it up in the air. Early on, he managed to tune in on a couple of contests and—though Arnie, Christina NØRIS, and others tried to make contact with them—no one there was able to get a response. Incidentally, while tuning around, Arnie came across a Germanlanguage net, which we were able to follow as Brian KMØY speaks the language and translated for us.

Joe KØNEB set up a couple of CW transceiver kits that he powered from a solar panel: an Elecraft KX1 and a Small Wonder Labs Rock-Mite kit that was built into a Fisherman's Friend tin.

Michael W8MZ used a Yaesu FT-817 connected to a long-wire antenna which he strung up with the help of Raymund N5SEZ. One end was hung from a nearby tree, the other to a pole next to Michael's car. The pole was a homebrew L-shaped affair that was held in place by parking one tire over the short end of the L (see photo on next page). The Yaesu was powered by a battery which was trickle charged by a small solar panel.

In all, it was an enjoyable and educational afternoon.

Bill KCØSVZ

#### Cell Phone vs. Amateur Radio

When New York amateur Steve Bozak, WB2IQU, was ticketed for using his mobile ham radio rig, he fought it and won. In many states, it's illegal to talk on a cell phone while driving and may result in the user getting a ticket if caught.

Steve didn't think he was doing anything wrong when he was pulled over, but the officer who ticketed him for \$100 thought otherwise; he couldn't be convinced that a hand-held transceiver should be treated differently than a cell phone. WB2IQU fought it in court and won—the judge ruled that an amateur radio doesn't fit the legal definition of a mobile telephone and dismissed the case.

See the full story at the ARRL web site:

 $\underline{http://www.arrl.org/news/view/new-york-judge-declares-amateur-radio-is-not-a-cell-\underline{phone}$ 

(Alternate URL: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/2ueshb8">http://tinyurl.com/2ueshb8</a>)

Thanks to Marvin AEØEG for passing this information on to the Ham Hum.

#### **AARC LoTW Status**

KØUSA's LoTW (Logbook of the World) account is now up-to-date with QSL/QSO information dating back to the mid-80s. The most recent upload of 27,482 QSOs was today and there are now a total of 1,192 QSLs. KØUSA has worked 16 countries and 47 states (no Delaware or South and North Dakota). It was surprising that the upload did not take that long. "Hats off" to QSL manager Ed KØIL, for keeping track of those records and making it so easy to upload the files.

73, Jeff WBØM

### Lark in the Park Photos



Figure 1: Some of the HBQRP People and Equipment

Top and Left (picture rotated 90 degrees CW): W8MZ's transceiver and antenna.

Center: KØNEB with Rock Mite (close up below).

**Lower Right**: W8MZ and N5SEZ set up long-wire antenna.

**Center Right**: Rear connectors on NAØNCR's Icom. The high-lighted line on the battery pack label states "Do not place this product in your mouth." Sensible advice.