# ARRL

# Nebraska State Convention "End of Winter Hamfest" Sponsored by the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> 2013

Flea Market – Forums – FCC Testing On-going Tech Demos

# Lancaster County Event Center 84th and Havelock Ave., Lincoln, NE.

	,		
<u>HOURS</u>	CONFIRMED EXHIBITORS:		
General Adm. Saturday 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM	Arrow Antenna, D & L Antennas,		
Flea Market table setup starting at 7:00 AM Saturday	Creative Edge Embroidery, DIT and DASH		
	Q-ES (Quality Electronic Supply), WBØW		
<u>FORUMS</u>	TECHNICAL DEMOS		
10:00am Global Warming with Ken Dewey, WD0BIV	Packet Cluster Winlink 2000		
11:00am Propagation with Tomas Hood NW7US 12:00pm ARRL Officials Meeting	APRS EchoLink		
12:30pm Future of Ham Radio with Norm Fusaro W3IZ	IRLP WSPR		
01:30pm ARRL Forum with Cliff Ahrens KOCA	PSK31		
VE Exams - 10:00am & 1:00pm			
ADMISSION & TABLE PRICES	GREAT PRIZES!		
Entry for those 18 and over is \$8.00 each & includes 1	Hourly Prize Drawings		
raffle ticket. No charge for anyone under 18.  LARC members is \$5.00 & includes 5 - \$1.00 Raffle	Grand Prize Drawing at 2:30 pm		
Tickets (LARC membership is \$15.00 / year.	For all prizes, you MUST be present to win		
Additional raffle tickets can be purchased at the			
convention.	General Manager – Reynolds Davis, KØGND		
Flea market tables (8 ft.) - are \$10 each until March 1,	Treasurer – Greg Brown, KTØK		
2013, then \$20 after.	Secretary – Heather Poysa, KDØBXA		
You can use PayPal by clicking the link at:  www.lincolnhamfest.org	(Visit http://www.k@kkv.org for latest updates)		

TALK-IN KØKKV 146.16/76 D-Star 145.25(-)

D-Star 145.25(-) APRS beacon on 144.39 Free Convention Parking
200 RV Camper Hookups

Staybridge Suites Official Convention Hotel

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Search Google MAPS, "Lancaster Event Center Lincoln NE" AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# **Ham Hum**

Volume LXIII, Issue 3

March 2013

# **Storm Spotting**



Brian Smith KBØOXF

Tornadoes can strike any time of the year, though they're most likely to occur in the Nebraska area during spring and summer. To prepare for this (and similar disasters), the National Weather Service established the SKYWARN project in the 1970s. It's a cooperative effort between private citizens and the NWS to monitor storms as they form and report potential tornadoes or other damaging weather. Radio amateurs have long been involved in this process, so it's appropriate that the speaker for the February

meeting was Brian Smith, KBØQXF, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the the NWS Omaha/Valley area.

Brian, who's been interested in storm spotting since high school in 1975, began the presentation with a history of storm spotting—from Benjamin Franklin drawing pictures of waterspouts, to modern-day technologies using radar, APRS, and computers. Along the way, he described some of the highlights, such as:

- John Finley of the US Army Signal Corps (then known as the Signal Service)
  was the first person to intensively study tornadoes in the late 19th and early
  20th centuries.
- In 1942, the FCC started the War Emergency Radio Service (WERS) during World War Two. Though primarily intended for civil defense, WERS was also used for communications during natural disasters. The license was assigned to communities, but one of the requirements to participate was that the individual must be a licensed ham. WERS, a precursor of RACES, remained in operation until the end of the war

(Storm Spotting continued on page 6.)



# March Meeting: Digital Radio at Field Day



This month, Corby Krick, KØSKW, will discuss his experiences operating a digital mode station during the AARC Field Day weekend on July 23, 2012. Don't miss it. *Friday, February 8th, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Building, 81*st & Spring Streets, Omaha, NE.

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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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2013-2014 Treasurer	Dave Rice	NØJSB	402-571-8915	davegr@netzero.net	
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2013 Director	Barb Westcott	KCØHLB	402-510-0308	barbwestcott@cox.net	
Immediate Past President	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net	
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Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7774	wa0zqg@yahoo.com	
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Club Callsign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net	
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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/

# Club Calendar

Mar 8	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
Mar 9	11:00 AM HBQRP, Breadeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.
Mar 13	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
<b>Mar 16</b>	8:30 AM Lincoln Hamfest. Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln, NE.
<b>Mar 16</b>	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Mar 20	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Mar 21	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE
Mar 21	Douglas County siren test.
Mar 25	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, NE.
Mar 26	6:30 PM AARC VE Session, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.
Mar 26	7:00 PM Storm Spotter training. Boys Town, 13715 Flanagan Blvd, Omaha.
Mar 28	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Mar 28	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16th, Council Bluffs, IA.
Apr 7	8:00 AM Upper Midwest Regatta, Carter Lake, IA.
Apr 10	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
Apr 12	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
Apr 13	8:00 AM MS Walk.
Apr 13	11:00 AM HBQRP, Breadeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.
Apr 17	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Apr 20	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Apr 18	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
Apr 22	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, NE.
Apr 25	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Apr 25	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16 <sup>th</sup> , Council Bluffs, IA.
Jun 22	Field Day
Jun 23	Field Day

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

AARC Flea-esta. Sarpy County Fairgrounds, Springfield, NE.

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# BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The next AARC Board Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2013, 6:30 PM at the Village Inn on 78th and Dodge Streets. Unless noted otherwise, future Board meetings will occur at that time and location on the fourth Monday 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... Your cell-phone's ring tone is your Ham radio call sign, sent in Morse Code

# February Door Prizes

This month, Prize Committee Czar Rollie ABØNN went for quality rather than quantity. His prizes consisted of a couple of expensive books instead of mundane things like power strips, spare parts, or second-hand electronics.

Specifically, the prizes consisted of two books: *Photovoltaic Design & Installation for Dummies* by Ryan Mayfield, and *Android Phones for Dummies* by Dan Gookin. Unfailingly, there was also the Brown Bag Prize and the dreaded Mr. Reeh Door Prize.

Adam KDØMMG drew the tickets and announced the winners. The *Photovoltaic* book went to Claudia K1AUD, while the winning ticket for the Droid belonged to Dave, NØJSB. The Brown Bag Prize was awarded to Pat KØCTU, who was the lucky recipient of a power strip. Julianna NØWAV was the unfortunate winner of the Mr. Reeh Door Prize, which turned out to be an old Motorola HT-100 two-way radio from the 1970s and 52 ECG-108 NPN transistors...errr...scratch that comment in the first paragraph about power strips, spare parts, and second-hand electronics.

Note that the proceeds for each month's tickets go for buying next month's prizes. Each month's tickets are kept and included in the Grand Prize drawing in December. The more tickets you buy each month, the better your chances of winning at the end of the year.

Bill KCØSVZ

## **Area Nets**

Monday
7:00 PM 145.290 South-West
Iowa ARES Glenwood, IA.
8:00 PM 144.250 NE Missour

Man alasa

SWOT. 9:00 PM 146.940 AARC Social Net. Ak-Sar-Ben

Social Net. Ak-Sar-Be ARC Omaha, NE.

# Thursday

8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net. 8:00 PM 146.360 Heartland DX Association.

### Tuesday

7:00 PM 147.360 QCWA
Hams who have been hams
for at least 25 years.
8:00 PM 50.200 6m SSB Net.
9:00 PM 145.310 Washington
Co. ARES Washington Co,
NE.

#### Saturday

12:00 PM 146.82 Swap Net Council Bluffs, IA. 8:30 PM 3.921.000 QCWA Chapter 20.

#### Wednesday

7:00 PM 146.670 Dodge Co. ARES Dodge Co, NE. 8:00 PM 145.310 Saunders Co. ARES Saunders Co, NE. 9:00 PM 146.820 Pottawattamie County ARES Council Bluffs, IA.

#### 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.

The Four State QRP Comfortable nets meet each Wednesday night beginning at 7:00 PM CST, 0100z. All are welcome!

7:00 CST 0100z	80M CW Net on 3564	WAØITP NCS
7:30 CST 0130z	40M CW Net on 7122	KCØPMH NCS
8:00 CST 0200z	80M CW Net on 3564	WAØITP NCS
8:30 CST 0230z	40M CW Net on 7122	KCØPMH NCS
9:00 CST 0300z	80M PSK Net on 3580.5	NØTGR NCS
		1

de Terry WAØITP

# **Veep Speaks**

As February draws to a close and March gets underway, I find myself getting impatient for spring. With spring comes not only the warmer weather I crave, but also lots of opportunities to get out and play with the radios. From helping out with various public service events to Field Day, we've certainly got a busy couple of months coming up.

I'm glad Brian Smith was able to come to our last meeting, I had no idea that SKYWARN had been around for so long, or that it does so much. I'm also excited that Corby KØSKW is

going to come to our next meeting and share with us his experiences running digital at last year's Field Day. I know lots of people are interested in learning about new modes, and digital is becoming easier to get into all the time. I hope to see you all there.

Adam KDØMMG, Vice President AARC

# Tornado of 1975

Were you there when the tornado struck Omaha on May 6, 1975? Volunteers from AARC participated in all phases of the emergency and the cleanup afterwards. Here's a list taken from the June, 1975 Special Edition of the *Ham Hum*. Some of these people are still members—though their call signs may have changed—others have passed on.

WAØABT	WAØASM	WØAUH	WBØBCB	WBØBKZ	WBØBMV	WBØBOR
WA9BVT	WØBXJ	WA2BXY	WØCES	WBØCMC	WAØCMK	WBØCQG
WØCQX	WAØCWW	WBØDDZ	WBØDGF	WAØDHU	KØDKM	WBØDLM
KØDNV	WBØDRS	KØDWC	WBØDXA	KØEFR	WØEGP	WBØEGR
WØEQU	KØEXK	WBØFGE	WBØFGO	WAØFLD	WAØFMY	WAØFPB
WBØFTU	WØFQB	WBØGDE	WAØGEH	WØGFQ	KØGHK	KØGND
WØGOJ	WAØGQG	WBØGQM	WBØGXD	WBØGXJ	KØGZE	WAØHAL
WAØHKT	WAØHNW	WØHTA	WBØHXA	WØHXL	WBØIBV	WBØIKL
WBØINQ	WAØIWF	WBØJAX	WØJCP	WØJDJ	KØJIU	WAØJOB
WBØJPN	WØKCK	WAØKGI	WBØKGX	WØKH	KØKKL	WØLH
KØLHW	WBØLKE	WAØLLQ	WBØLLU	WBØLNI	KØLUW	KØLYO
WBØLYU	WBØMAH	WBØMFL	WØMGW	WNØMNK	WBØMTS	WBØMWB
WAØMYF	WØMYT	WBØNGF	WBØNKA	WØNMN	WBØNPS	WAØNTN
WØNVE	WBØNVL	WØOCW	WØOCZ	WAØODH	WØODL	WØOVX
WØOXT	WAØPCC	WØPDP	WBØPEX	WBØPGX	WØPNV	WØPPT
KØPQR	KØPTG	WAØQJK	WAØQVZ	KØRAI	WAØRJR	WØRMB
WAØROP	WAØRQA	WØSBZ	WAØSCM	WAØSMN	WØSMY	WAØSPV
WAØTMG	KØUDK	WØUKO	WAØVBX	WAØVEE	WA7VIL	WAØVOQ
WAØWGF	WAØWOT	WAØWRI	WØYCP	WØYDV	WØMYU	WØYZV
WAØZQX	WAØZUR	WAØIKO	KØJKO	WBØMTM	KØPGG	WAØPJK
WØRHX	WØTXT	WA7VVA				

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# Club Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2013

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 28 attendees. Introductions by name and call.

Officers and Board members present included: Tomas, NW7US; Adam, KDØMMG; Mary, NØTRK; Bill, WA9ASD; Dave, NØJSB; Mitch, WBØGBI and Barb, KCØHLB.

Secretary's Report - A motion was made by Pat, KØCTU, seconded by Norm, WAØJYD, to accept the January club meeting minutes as published in *Ham Hum*. There were no corrections required and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Dave, NØJSB - Dave reported that there were deposits of \$856 including \$680 from dues payments, \$120 from USS Hazard donations, \$21 from refreshments donations, and \$35 in equipment sales (J-Pole antenna). There were payments totaling \$46.90 including \$35.93 for *Ham Hum* and \$10.97 for club meeting refreshments. The balance of all accounts is \$21,642.49.

It was then reported by Bill, WA9ASD that the license plates for the antenna trailer have been purchased showing the location as his house in Blair and the mailing address as the club's P.O. Box.

Vice President's Report - Adam, KDØMMG - The program for tonight's meeting will be by Brian Smith, KBØQXF of NOAA on the history Skywarn

Community Events - Pat, KØCTU - The State Track Meet will be May 17 and 18. Volunteers need to contact Pat.

Pat also reported that Larry Bock, KCØR from Elkhorn had an accident and hopefully will recover to participate with the State Track Meet which he has assisted with for 30 years.

ARES - There will be spotter training on March 26.

OMMRS - Mary NØTRK - Mary reported that there will be OMMRS training on February 19th at the Village Inn at 78th and Dodge and also on the 23 from 10 - 12 and from 1 - 3. It will consist of an overview, the equipment involved, and what to do.

Ham Hum - Bill, KCØSVZ - Bill reported that after overcoming a minor printer failure Ham Hum made it out for another month.

Field Day - Rob, AI7O - The Field Day site will be at 156th Street and Maple as last year. A committee is needed to split up the tasks including security, food, and publicity. Tomas, NW7US added that we should go for a good mix of activity including a GOTA station, CW, and digital modes. The board will discuss further plans.

Courtesy Committee - KEØXQ - no activity

Trailer Committee - Mary, NØTRK - no news

Equipment Committee - Mary, NØTRK - no news

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

# **Contest Calendar**

March 2013	
AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-21002
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-03302
AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest	2300Z, Mar
	2300Z, Mar
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-03302
AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-20002
EA PSK63 Contest	1600Z, Mar
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-04002

NAOCC-EU Monthly Sprint

ORP Fox Hunt

ORP Fox Hunt

BARTG HF RTTY Contest

SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest

Russian DX Contest AGCW VHF/UHF Contest

Wisconsin OSO Party

CWops Mini-CWT Test

Feld Hell Sprint

North American Sprint, SSB

ORP Fox Hunt

NAOCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB

ORP Fox Hunt ORP Fox Hunt

CWops Mini-CWT Test

ORP Fox Hunt

CO WW WPX Contest, SSB

April 2013

ORP Fox Hunt SARL 80m QSO Party ORP Fox Hunt LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest

PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest

SP DX Contest

)Z. Mar 5

)Z, Mar 6

6 to 2300Z, Mar 7 and 9 to 2300Z, Mar 10

OZ. Mar 8 )Z, Mar 9

9 to 1600Z, Mar 10 9 to 1900Z, Mar 10 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 10 1800Z, Mar 10 to 0100Z, Mar 11

0100Z-0230Z, Mar 13

1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 13 and

0300Z-0400Z, Mar 14 1800Z-2000Z, Mar 13 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 15

0200Z, Mar 16 to 0200Z, Mar 18 1000Z, Mar 16 to 1000Z, Mar 17 1200Z, Mar 16 to 1200Z, Mar 17 1400Z-1700Z, Mar 16 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Mar 16 (432) 1600Z-1800Z, Mar 16 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 17 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 20 0030Z-0230Z, Mar 21

2000Z-2130Z, Mar 21 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 22 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 27

1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 27 and

0300Z-0400Z, Mar 28 0100Z-0230Z, Mar 29

0000Z, Mar 30 to 2400Z, Mar 31

0100Z-0230Z, Apr 3 1700Z-2000Z, Apr 4 0100Z-0230Z, Apr 5 0400Z-0800Z, Apr 6 1200-1800 local, Apr 6 1500Z, Apr 6 to 1500Z, Apr 7

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







# Saturday Night Coffee

On February 16, 2013, members of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club met for the monthly coffee get-together at Perkins restaurant. The group was able to commandeer the northeast conference room (with the fireplace!) so no one was cold that night. Attending were: Pat KØCTU, Tom, KCØRFJ, Claudia K1AUD, Bill KCØSVZ, Christina NØRIS, and Mary NØTRK.

As usual, the discussion covered a mixed bag of subjects; including bicycling, geocaching, delays in receiving QSL cards, rechargeable batteries, techniques for installing windowsills, the cultural effects of Id Software's *Doom* computer game, Russian meteorites, and the upcoming dog racing Flyball event in Davenport, Iowa.

Geocaching sparked some interesting conversation, as NØRIS and K1AUD told the story of *The Ransom of the Red Pig*. It's too long to go into here, but it involved several puns, misadventures, and references to O. Henry. The conversation then swung to the similarities between geocaching (finding hidden objects using clues, smartphones, and GPS devices) and fox/rabbit hunts (finding a hidden transmitter using RDF techniques). KØCTU suggested that perhaps the two could be combined in some way; though it appears that other clubs have done this, it hasn't been attempted by AARC, so may be worth further investigation for a future Club activity.

The AARC Coffee get-together is held at Perkins restaurant at the corner of 108th and L Streets in Omaha on the third Saturday of the month, starting at 6 PM. Everyone is invited.

Bill KCØSVZ

# **Four Volunteers Needed**

I am trying to help Rick, KØHE drum up some volunteers to help out with the Upper Midwest Regatta, which is a women's rowing event. It takes place on Sunday April 7, 2013 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Carter Lake. Terry Donahough, a biochemist at UNMC, is the head referee and is asking for four ham radio operators to assist at the posts for this event. His number is 402-680-0415. Dan Chipps, a coworker and also Creighton's womens rowing coach is also assisting in this event. Email Rick at k0he@cox.net

Thanks all for taking the time to help on this. It is just one more event to demonstrate our ability and gain community support.

Tom WDØBFO

# Want Ad

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

#### (Meeting Minutes continued from page 4.)

<u>Flea-Esta</u> - Pat, KØCTU - The Flea-Esta is planned for September 7, 2013 at the Sarpy County Fairgrounds. We will reserve the facility for Friday night and Saturday. The grand prize drawing time will be moved up to noon.

Old Business - The USS Hazard radio purchased arrived January 20, 2013.

New Business - none

<u>Announcements</u> - Norm, WAØJYD announced that the C.B. club will hold their flea market at McClelland, IA on March 2 and the Nebraska State Convention will be held in Lincoln on March 16.

- On Saturday, February 9 there will be a VE exam at Midlands Hospital at 1 PM.
- Jim, KAØKCV announced that the Shrine Circus will be in Omaha on February 24.
- The date for the next board meeting has not been set.
- Tomas suggested there be a CW net, possibly on 10 meters to allow club members to brush up on their CW skills before Field Day.
- Pat KØCTU announced that audiophiles contact him to get together to discuss vintage and current audio equipment.
- No cookies are available although there is coffee in the kitchen.
- The door prize drawing will be after the break, before the program. Get your tickets now.

<u>Door Prize Committee</u> - Rollie, ABØNN reported that the door prizes for tonight include a book on photovoltaic system design and another on Android phones. These are in addition to the Mr. Reeh Door Prize and the Brown Bag Door Prize. All tickets purchased throughout the year are retained for the drawings at the December meeting. Winners must be present to win.

At 7:34 PM a motion was made by Adam, KDØMMG seconded by Julie, NØWAV to end the meeting. Passed by unanimous vote.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

#### **Obscure Q Codes**

More Q signals that never made it to the ARRL's official list. As with regular Q signals, each can be a statement or a question, depending on whether a question mark follows it.

QAW - I hear alternator whine / Do you hear alternator whine?

QBO - Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting / Buddy, can you spare some soap?

QBQ - I know a good BBQ place / Do you know a good BBQ place?

QBR - I need a beer / Do you need a beer?

#### (Storm Spotting continued from page 1.)

- Air Force Captain Robert Miller and Major Ernest Fawbush were the first to accurately predict a tornado that struck Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City on March 25, 1948. Though there was extensive damage, it wasn't as bad as it could have been, and no injuries were reported.
- The Weather Bureau strongly discouraged using "tornado" in forecasts and warnings until 1950, as they were worried that it would cause the public to panic.
- In 1956, the first storm spotters guide, *Severe Storm Reporting Handbook*, was published. Brian also showed a portion of an early spotter film from that year.



- In 1957, meteorologist Ted Fujita identified the wall cloud as a prominent indicator of a potential tornado.
- In 1959, the booklet *It <u>Looks</u> Like a Tornado* was published to aid spotters in distinguishing tornadoes from other cloud formations.
- 1965 saw the Palm Sunday Outbreak—47 tornadoes—and the founding of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Merle G.
   Kachenmeister, WA8EWW (1930-2012) developed a weather warning system that was to become SKYWARN.

Brian concluded his talk with a discussion of the role of storm spotting today: how SKYWARN is involved in training (both online and traditional classroom), ham radio's

involvement, and some of the newer technology in use—such as APRS, RadarScope, and dual-polarization radar. He also described services such as eSpotter (http://espotter.weather.gov/), the Spotter Network (http://www.spotternetwork.org/), and the PING Project

(http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/ping/).

He pointed out that social media such as Twitter is being used during storm spotting and the increasing problem of information overload. Associated with this is that it's becoming more difficult to determine the level of training of the spotter making the report, so the coordinator must be able to make good judgment calls.

Brian concluded his excellent presentation by

stating that trained spotters—particularly amateur radio operators—will always be needed in spite of technological advancements: they still come through when all else fails.

Bill KCØSVZ

# Post Meeting Meeting

After KBØQXF's talk at the February meeting, some of us decided to continue the evening at Perkins on 108th and L for coffee and conversation. So we cleaned up the place, locked the building, hopped into our cars, and headed west. I took 84th Street south with the intent of turning right on L Street. Dick KBØKJV was riding shotgun and we got deep into a conversation and missed the turn. Plan B was to turn on Q Street and head west. We missed that, too. So we swung around, missed Q Street again, but did make L.

By time we arrived, everybody else was already there: Pat KØCTU, Claudia K1AUD, Jim KAØKCV, Barb KCØHLB, Adam KDØMMG, Leigh KD7TZR, Mary NØTRK, Steve NØUP, and Tomas NW7US.

We ate good food and socialized; talking about various topics such as dogs, the Men in Black with the dog in the car, songs, furniture moving, language, Montana, buffalo, and cattle.

Bill KCØSVZ



# MISCELLANEOUS

Red Cross to Phase Out ECRVs: Due to changes in technology and other factors, the American Red Cross is phasing out the ten-year-old fleet of Emergency Communication Response Vehicles as retrofitting them with new equipment is not a good use of donated funds. However, American Red Cross Disaster Services Technology Manager Keith Robertory, KG4UIR, told the ARRL that radio amateur's "...skills will continue to be needed as the American Red Cross implements new technology strategy and tactics." For details, see the full article at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/news/american-red-cross-to-phase-out-emergency-communication-response-vehicles">http://www.arrl.org/news/american-red-cross-to-phase-out-emergency-communication-response-vehicles</a> (http://tinyurl.com/b84tn88).

**Audiophile Discussion Group:** As mentioned in this month's Meeting Minutes, Pat K0CTU is looking for people interested in talking about vintage and current audio equipment. Contact him at the next Club meeting or email ppjoseph@cox.net.

**Field Day Volunteers Needed:** Rob, AI7Q (email: ai7q@arrl.net) is looking for volunteers to help him with Field Day this year. Please consider how you can contribute.

American Satellite Wakes Up After 46 Years: Amateur Radio Astronomer Phil Williams, G3YPQ, detected signals from the LES1, a satellite that was launched in 1965 and abandoned in 1967. Built by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, it failed to reach its intended orbit owing to a wiring error and has been drifting out of control ever since. For details, see the link to the AARC web page: http://tinyurl.com/bbflwol.