# Saturday Night Coffee

The get-together at Perkins was much quieter this time than the previous month. Nevertheless, it was an entertaining evening. Present were Pat KØCTU, Claudia K1AUD, Dick KBØKJV, Bill KCØSVZ, Douglas NØCALL, Christina NØRIS, Mary NØTRK, and Steve NØUP. We were placed in the conference room with the fireplace at the west end of the restaurant—a safe distance from the other patrons.

While eating good food, we talked about various subjects, including: pneumatic antenna launchers, Field Day, mesh communications, the Kantronics KPC-4 TNC, the Hazard museum ship, the AEA DM-1 FM Deviation Meter, and adapting K1AUD's Ham Radio Exam site software (www.hamradioexam.org) to mobile devices—to name a few. Interspersed with that were comments on various non-ham subjects such as: eating in the Old Market, GPS on personal telescopes, British TV, lemon meringue pie (Perkins had it that night), and movies. No one mentioned Wouff Hongs, however.

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

### 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

## MISCELLAMEOUS

**HMM-MESH** has changed their name to **Broadband-Hamnet**. The URL of their web site (www.hsmm-mesh.org) is unchanged, but Broadband-hamnet.org and Broadbandhamenet.org will also get you there.

At the end of June, Art KØAIZ will be stepping down as the Nebraska Section Manager and encourages everyone to get out and vote. (source: http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/nebraska)

The AARC Field Day Committee encourages you to volunteer for Field Day. Go to http://www.mdares.org/heroes/machform/view.php?id=40 and fill out the form.

> You may be a ham radio operator if... Your significant other sits in the back seat, and your radios ride in the front.

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# **Ham Hum**

Volume LXIII. Issue 5

May 2013

# Field Day Logging & Procedures



Adam Kayan KDØMMG

Field Day is a live training session to prepare amateurs to be able to set up and operate a station during less-than-ideal conditions in an emergency. It is also a contest with points and awards for contacting other participants. The contest encourages people to participate, while the experienced gained pays off when a real emergency occurs.

With the influx of new hams joining AARC and Field Day coming up in a couple

of months (June 22-23), the topic chosen for the April meeting was an introduction to general operating procedures and the software AARC uses to log contacts. Tomas NW7US and Adam KDØMMG were scheduled to give the talk, but Tomas couldn't make it, so Adam filled in for both of them.

Adam discussed the two basic operating strategies: hunt-and-pounce and sitting on a band. The first involves roaming the bands until you find a station calling CQ, then answering them. The latter involves staying on a frequency and calling CQ until a station answers you. He also described what went into a good exchange once contact was made: clearly identify your station, be brief and stick to the essential information, and—if necessary to repeat information—provide (or ask for) only that information that didn't make it through the first time.

Adam then discussed the software that AARC uses to log contacts on Field Day. Specifically the Field Day Contest Log written by Scott N3FJP, which is available from his web site at www.n3fjp.com.

(Field Day Procedures continued on page 3.)



# May Meeting: Ham Creations



Many hams have built their own equipment—either kit or home brew. If you've built something to enhance the enjoyment of your hobby—it doesn't have to be electronic you're invited to bring it (or a picture of it) and share your experiences. Friday, May 10th, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Building, 81st & 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.

Club Officers & Board Members							
President Tomas Hood		NW7US	402-915-1771	nw7us@nw7us.us			
Vice President	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	402-598-1521	akavan@gmail.com			
2013-2014 Secretary Bill True		WA9ASD	402-426-2813	williammtrue@aol.con			
2013-2014 Treasurer			402-571-8915	davegr@netzero.net			
2013 2014 Director	Mitch Saure	WBØGBI	402-455-6205	skyking195@aol.com			
2013 Director	Barb Westcott	KCØHLB	402-510-0308	barbwestcott@cox.net			
Immediate Past President	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net			
Club Committees							
Courtesy Committee	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	402-690-7965	ke0xq@cox.net			
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Field Day Rob Buchholz		AI7Q	402-964-9960	ai7q@arrl.net			
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net			
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7774	wa0zqg@yahoo.com			
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Publications	Bill Wilkinson	KCØSVZ	402-397-8803	kc0svz@gmail.com			
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Repeater Committee							
Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net			
Vice Chairman	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							
ARRL Midwest Director	Clifford Ahrens	KØCA	573-221-8618	k0ca@arrl.org			
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS	319-393-8022	k0das@arrl.org			
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	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	402-421-0839	K0AIZ@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/

# Club Calendar

May 8	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.			
May 10	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.			
May 11	11:00 AM HBQRP, Breadeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.			
May 11	1:00 PM BARC VE Session, 11111 S. 84th St., Papillion, NE.			
May 15	6:00 PM Field Day meeting, Perkins, Omaha, NE.			
May 15	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.			
May 16	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE			
May 17	9:00 AM State track meet. Burke Stadium, 12200 Burke Blvd, Omaha, NE.			
May 18	9:30 AM State track meet. Burke Stadium, 12200 Burke Blvd, Omaha, NE.			
May 18	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.			
May 23	11:00 AM QCWA Meeting. Old Country Buffet, 14525 W. Center Rd., Omaha, NE.			
May 23	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.			
May 23	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16th, Council Bluffs, IA.			
May 27	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, NE.			
May 28	6:30 PM AARC VE Session, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.			
Jun 4	6:30 PM Technician Class, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.			
Jun 8	11:00 AM HBQRP, Breadeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.			
Jun 11	6:30 PM Technician Class, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.			
Jun 12	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.			
Jun 14	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.			
Jun 15	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.			
Jun 18	6:30 PM Technician Class, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.			
Jun 19	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.			
Jun 20	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.			
Jun 22	FIELD DAY			
Jun 23	FIELD DAY			
Jun 24	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, NE.			
Jun 25	6:30 PM Technician Class, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.			
Jun 27	11:00 AM QCWA Meeting. Old Country Buffet, 14525 W. Center Rd., Omaha, NE.			
Jun 27				
Jun 27	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16 <sup>th</sup> , Council Bluffs, IA.			
Sep 7	AARC Flea-esta. Sarpy County Fairgrounds, Springfield, NE.			
For more details and the latest undetes, see the Calanday section of the AARC web site				

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

# BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The next AARC Board Meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2013, 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 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 Go-Bag has more clothes in it than your dresser does.

#### **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 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.

#### 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

8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.

8:00 PM 146.360 Heartland DX Association.

#### 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.

You may be a ham radio operator if... You have thought you were still hearing CW, SSB, or SSTV tones, even when your ham radio was off.

### Weather Radio Volunteers Needed

The weather radio programming project for 2013 began last month. We need volunteers to work with members of the KETV Weather Now team to help program the radios. These events occur at the Hy-Vee locations below on the listed dates.

- May 11: 3410 N. 156th Street (156th and Maple)
- May 25: 11650 S.73rd Street, Papillion (Highway 370 & 72nd St.)
- June 1: 1745 Madison Ave., Council Bluffs (Mall of the Bluffs)
- June 22: 7910 Cass Street (Peony Park Hy-Vee)

Time is from 10 AM to 1 PM on all dates. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please let me know, and I'll pass on the information to the folks at KETV.

Gary Wiese KBØKYM, email: GAWWIECOX.NET



# Veep Speaks

For our May program we are doing something a little different. A lot of us have built all sorts of interesting things related to our shared hobby, now is your chance to show off your creation. Please bring it, a picture of it, or at least a description of it, and tell us all about it.

There are many different ways to enjoy ham radio and one of them that I've wanted to try for a while is a fox hunt, so this summer I would like to organize one. However, I don't have any experience with them, so if anyone would like to help please let

me know. Also, if someone would like to give a program on radio direction finding before the event, I would appreciate it.

If there is anything else you would like to see the Club do, or any program you would like to see put on, please let either me, or any member of the board know. We are always looking for entertaining things to do. Have a good May and try to keep warm.

Adam KDØMMG, Vice President AARC

### (Field Day Procedures continued from page 1.)

Adam discussed the major features while demonstrating them on his laptop. This includes displaying data on a station after entering the call sign and state (including map), flagging duplicate entries, listing all sections (with color codes to indicate which have been worked), and summarizing the data for log submission, among others. The software also interfaces to most major transceivers and can be networked so that it can log the activity of all Field Day participants.

Adam concluded that Field Day is a low-stress way to get into operating a station, and there are lots of experienced people willing to help the beginner. He also stated that it's fun, you get lots of fresh air, and there's food—with priority given to the operators.



www.arrl.org

Finally, the Club still needs some volunteers to help make Field Day a success. If you'd like to help, go the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club web site (http://www.aksarbenarc.org/main/) and click on the Field Day link for more information and a sign-up form.

Bill KCØSVZ

# Club Meeting Minutes - March 8, 2013

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

May 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Adam, KDØMMG in Tomas's absence with introductions by name and call followed by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 27 attendees.

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

<u>Secretary's Report</u> - A motion was made by Mary, NØTRK, seconded by Pat, KØCTU, to accept the March club meeting minutes as published in Ham Hum. There were no corrections required and the motion passed unanimously.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u> - Dave, NØJSB - Dave reported that there were deposits of \$199 from dues payments of \$104, donations \$10, cook book sales \$15 and equipment sales of \$70. There were payments totaling \$253.24 including \$72.24 for Ham Hum, \$100 donation to the Maritime Radio History Society, \$78 for the Post Office Box rental and \$3 for bank fees. The balance of all accounts is \$21,954.10.

President's Report - Tomas, NW7US - not available.

<u>Vice President's Report</u> - Adam, KDØMMG - The program for tonight's meeting will be about Field Day logging and the software we use at the Aksarben ARC Field Day. Next month we will be talking about cool things we have built.

<u>ARES</u> - Steve, NØUP - There will be an ARES meeting within the next 2 months and training.

<u>COMMUNITY EVENTS</u> - Pat, KØCTU - The annual MS Walk will be tomorrow April 13. The State Track Meet will be May 17 and 18 and volunteers for that need to contact Pat.

OMMRS - Mary, NØTRK - Although the Offutt Air Show has been canceled there will be MARE on June 8 and possibly another date.

<u>Education Committee</u> - Mary, NØTRK - We are planning an 8 week class starting in June and running through July.

Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK - We have applications for membership from Cameron Cushing, KDØOOB, Doug Olson, KCØIGO and Joel Schneider, WBØSIF. There was a motion by Barb, KCØHLB and John, WBØCMC, seconded by Ralph, WØSMY to accept these 3 as members of the club. Passed unanimously.

<u>Ham Hum</u> - Bill, KCØSVZ - There were no problems with printing this month's *Ham Hum*.

Web Site - Mary, NØTRK - The club web site works.

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

Field Day - Rob, AI7Q - Mary, NØTRK reported that Field Day is June 22 and 23 at

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

# **Contest Calendar**

May 2013	
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 7
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, May 8 & 0300Z-0400Z, May 9
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, May 8
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 9
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 10
EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party	1000Z-1200Z, May 11 & 1800Z-2000Z, May 12
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 11 to 1159Z, May 12
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 11 to 2400Z, May 12
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 11 to 1200Z, May 12
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 11
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 11 to 0300Z, May 12
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 15
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 18 to 1200Z, May 19
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, May 18
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 18 to 0200Z, May 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 20
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 22
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, May 22 & 0300Z-0400Z, May 23
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, May 23
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 24
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 25 to 2359Z, May 26
SARL Digital Contest	1300Z-1600Z, May 26

2300Z, May 26 to 0300Z, May 27

0230Z-0300Z, May 31

June 2013 10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest 0000Z, Jun 1 to 2400Z, Jun 2 Wake-Up! QRP Sprint 0600Z-0800Z, Jun 1 Maritimes QSO Party 1200Z-2400Z, Jun 1 SEANET Contest 1200Z, Jun 1 to 1200Z, Jun 2 Alabama OSO Party 1600Z, Jun 1 to 0400Z, Jun 2 ARS Spartan Sprint 0100Z-0300Z, Jun 4 NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Jun 7 VK Shires Contest 0600Z, Jun 8 to 0600Z, Jun 9 Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB 1100Z-1300Z, Jun 8 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon 1200Z, Jun 8 to 2400Z, Jun 9 Portugal Day Contest 1200Z, Jun 8 to 1159Z, Jun 9 GACW WWSA CW DX Contest 1500Z, Jun 8 to 1500Z, Jun 9

MI ORP Memorial Day CW Sprint

NCCC Sprint Ladder

REF DDFM 6m Contest

ARRL June VHF Contest

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Jun 12
Sources: http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html & http://www.aksarbenarc.org

1600Z, Jun 8 to 1600Z, Jun 9

1800Z, Jun 8 to 0259Z, Jun 10



#### (February Haiti Trip continued from page 11.)

They are intended for program production rather than photography. There is so much that can be done with them and the video switcher (also got from KETV) that I hope there is enough time to do adequate training.

For those who have never been there, the path to the studio is/was across a section of sloping roof with no walls. That section is getting walls and will be a new room with a level floor for equipment and extra studio area. It wasn't nearly finished by the time I left but will be a big plus for the facility when it is.



Pastor Revenel, Dave Blodget and Joe Francis in the transmitter building on the mountain.

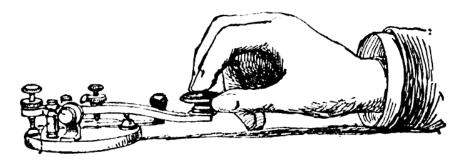
While there, I found out that there had been a man from the Dominican Republic doing some research at the quarry. It appears that there is a lot of high quality marble there and Revenel has most of the heavy equipment to dig it out. The first or second week of March they were supposed to take some core samples and send them to the DR for analysis and from there to Italy. If the results are favorable it could mean more and significant income for the mission.

Several of the volcanoes were oozing, gurgling, and burping while I was there. They are pretty at night with the orange floes running down the mountainsides. By volcanic standards, they are quite tame. They seem most active during the few days around the full moon. Maybe its gravity has something to do with it. Just guessing, though.

All things considered, I'd say it was a successful trip. I left a very happy pastor. He's back on the air with both the radio and TV and is getting reports from much of the country on coverage. He has his path back into the Voodoo culture again to do evangelization. The semi-official figures I have seen are that 60-70% of the population practice Voodoo. Revenel tells me that in the Gonaives area it's only about 50% or less thanks to the radio and TV, even though it's been off the air for a bit over a year.

We'll see how it works in the future. We have great hopes and expectations.

John WBØCMC



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

the 911 center and the Douglas County Crime Lab. There is a sign-up form for all positions and activities on the club web site.

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

Courtesy Committee - KEØXQ - Steve Schmidt, KEØSS mother passed away.

 $\underline{Trailer/Equipment\ Committee} \ -\ Mary,\ N\ \ \ \ VA\ trailer.$  We had a meeting and we have a game plan for finishing the N6KVA trailer.

<u>Flea-Esta</u> - Pat, KØCTU - The Flea-Esta is planned for September 7, 2013 at the Sarpy County Fairgrounds. We are considering renting the building next door for an additional \$25 with no additional deposit.

<u>Old Business</u> – none.

New Business - none.

#### **Announcements**

- Ralph, WØSMY announced that he has arranged for a meeting room at Maple Crest that is available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for an Extra Class License class. Those interested should let him know which day of the week they prefer and he will arrange for the room. They would like to work from a variety of study materials.
- Gary, KBØKYM announced that the Channel 7 weather people will be available to program weather radios at several area Hy Vee store from April 27 through May 11. Club members who would like to assist with this should contact him.
- John, WBØCMC announced that there will be an amateur barbeque contest at the Benson Farmers Market in conjunction with Benson Days on July 27.
- Norm, WAØJYD mentioned that the Nebraska QSO Party will be sometime
  this month and that it's not listed in the operating events calendar in the
  current Ham Hum.
- Mary, NØTRK announced that there is equipment for sale on the club web site.
- Pat, KØCTU reported on participation in the Upper Midwest Collegiate Sprint, a rowing competition sponsored by Creighton University. This was the first time for radio support of the event and future events will have more involvement.

Rollie, ABØNN was not present so there were no drawings for good door prizes. Nonetheless, our two newly accepted members that were present were awarded the 'other' door prizes. Cameron, KDØOOB was awarded the Brown Bag Door prize which consisted of 50 brown bags. Joel, WBØSIF received the Mr. Reeh Door Prize which was a QRP Transmitter Kit with power supply and instruction. The kit consisted of a can of smoked ham, a 9 volt battery, and battery clip.

At 7:33 PM a motion was made by Greg, WØAAI, seconded by Jim, KAØKCV to end the meeting. Passed unanimously.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

# April Door Prizes

Rollie ABØNN wasn't able to make it to the April meeting, so the usual batch of door prizes weren't available.
Unfortunately, the Brown Bag and Mr. Reeh Door Prizes still were—so it was decided to unload award them to the two new

members who were present at the time: Cameron KDØOOB and Joel WBØSIF.\*

The Brown Bag prize went to Cameron, who discovered that he'd received a brown bag full of brown paper bags. The Mr. Reeh Door Prize, a QRP ham radio kit, was awarded to Joel. The kit consisted of a can of smoked ham, a 9 volt battery, a battery clip, and the following instruction manual:

# **QRP Transmitter Kit (Power Supply Included)**

Required: Ears-centered computing device, engaged, quantity at least one.

#### Instructions

- 1. Open can.
- 2. Remove contents (eating is okay).
- 3. Add components.
- 4. Apply power.
- 5. Tune for maximum output.

**Warning**: The essential essence that lives inside of all electronic parts is smoke. If the smoke is allowed to leave the device, it will no longer work. The smoke can never be put back again.

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. The more tickets you buy, the better your chances of winning at the end of the year.

Bill KCØSVZ & Bill WA9ASD

# **Community Service Thanks!**

A big thanks goes out to Adam KDØMMG, Corby KØSKW, Mary NØTRK, and Pat KØCTU for providing communications support to the MS Society's "MS Walk" event on April 13th. This has been a service provided by the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club for more than 20 years.

The 2013 Edition started at Stinson Park and followed along the Keystone Trail to the turnaround point at Kohl's parking lot. The trail was often crowded with walkers, but everyone made it safely back to Stinson Park.

If you weren't able to help out with this event, there will be more in the future. Check the AARC web site (http://www.aksarbenarc.org/) and the weekly ARES net for more chances to volunteer.

(Source: AARC Web Site)

# **February Haiti Trip**

John Gebuhr, WBØCMC

[This is Part II of a two-part article on John's latest trip to Gonaives, Haiti, where he did volunteer work upgrading the TV and FM stations belonging to Pastor Revenel Benoit's Lutheran Church.]



Studio cameras from KETV.

Back to the studio cameras. It turned out that the power transformer out on the pole outside the church had burned out sometime before we got there and they had hay-wired power from somewhere else. I turned one of them on and it was not happy. In checking the voltage at the outlet it was only 98 volts. The camera promptly got turned off and we did some serious electrical work.

With most of the equipment off the outlet now read 180 volts, another only 40. Someone

didn't hook up the neutral. We finally got that straightened out and had 115 at both outlets. Due to the apparently long wires to wherever the source was, as equipment was turned on this sagged to around 100-105 volts.

These are the three studio cameras donated by KETV in Omaha, including the pedestals. The one with the skirt off needs some more counterweights. One of the welders at the quarry is making some out of iron. The originals are lead. He had 6 done when I was still there and did a really good job. This pedestal also has a bad ring gear in it that I'm going to try and find. It doesn't steer too well.

With the bad power situation we decided not to try and run them till we get a new transformer for the church and have reliable voltage again. Even though Revenel is itching to get them going, It was easy to convince him to wait till the new transformer gets installed. We don't want to take a chance of damaging \$250,000 (new price) worth of equipment with bad power. Once we get good power I still need to time all three for both color and sync. Then comes a lot of training. These cameras are clearly professionals and will do lots of stuff that your home camcorder won't.



The mason working on the new room. The street is four floors down through the tree.

(February Haiti Trip continued on page 12.)

<sup>\*</sup> See *Club Meeting Minutes* in this issue for details.

#### (When is a Metal Pipe in the Ground not Grounded? continued from page 9.)

An Internet search turned up a government organization called the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration which is responsible for gas pipe safety. Their guidelines on corrosion control of gas pipes can be viewed at this link.

http://phmsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/PHMSA/DownloadableFiles/smalllpgas-chapt8.pdf

Indeed, they specify insulating and how much voltage gas companies are to put on the buried gas pipes and how to do it, using galvanic cells (batteries) that give themselves up to corrosion instead of the pipes. Gas companies are required to check the voltages and isolation quarterly, replacing cells as necessary.

Energizing gas pipes? Makes me nervous. But they obviously know what they are doing. I hope.

Once I had satisfied myself on understanding gas pipe grounding, I was ready to put together a grounding plan for my simple wire antenna system. But that is another story.

Cliff K6LH

## **OBSCURE Q CODES**

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

- QBA My antenna is BIG! / How big is your antenna?
- QCF Going for coffee / Are you going for coffee?
- QCP Call me on my cell phone / Should I call you on your cell phone?
- QCP I am using Cat Power (from Rotary Cat Power Wheel)
- QCW I am going to whistle Morse Code on FM (or SSB) / Why are you whistling Morse?
- QDB Everyone on here is dead and buried / Is everyone on here dead and buried, or does it just sound quiet as a graveyard due to lack of interest?
- QDL Keep it on the down low / Should I keep it on the down low?
- OBT Been there
- QDT Done That
- QDW That Doesn't Work
- QET Phone home / Has anyone called me from another planet?
- QEW Copy is difficult due to Ear Wax / Is copy difficult due to Ear Wax?
- QFB I am on Facebook / Are you on Facebook?
- QFF n My front feet are n / How high is your front feet on your radio?
- OFO Am I full quieting? / You are full quieting.
- QGA Stopping for gas / Are you stopping for gas?
- QGS I've got Guinness Stout here! / You got any Guinness Stout there?
- QHD Going to Home Depot / Are you going to Home Depot?
- QHO Headed for home / Are you headed for home?

# What I Made

Bill True WA9ASD

[In keeping with the May theme of DYI in the ham shack, WA9ASD describes his experiences in rebuilding a power transformer in order to repair a battery charger.]

A long time ago I got my first radio that used NiCad batteries. This was great! No more running to the store to buy new batteries every time they ran down - just recharge them.

Of course, not long after I got this setup the charger died. A little simple sleuthing and I determined that the transformer opened up. It's a funny thing about transformers. If you take them to a hamfest you can't give them away. If you want to buy one they cost an arm and a leg. When transformers burn out the primary usually goes because it is wound with finer wire.

I decided to re-wind the transformer because when I was growing up my dad had a Skil one-speed, 1/4 inch, non-reversible drill that he rewound the motor two times. Before he did it the first time he took a course at Volky-Tech, the local technical school (we called them vocational schools then, now they call them community colleges) to learn about motors. I figured if he could do it two times I could do a simple transformer.

Transformers are easy to rewind except you can't get fish paper any more that goes between the windings and they use a machine to wind them so you probably can't get the same number of turns on the core as they did. Oh, by the way, the primary - remember that's the one that opens up - it's almost always wound first with the secondary wound over it. My transformer was, luckily, open in the secondary—which was wound on the outside of the core so it would be possible to rebuild.

Okay, first problem. You have to take apart all of the laminations to get the windings off and they are alternating interleaved E and I pieces and every piece is coated with vanish or shellac so they are all stuck to each other. The coating is to hold the laminations together to make the core more efficient. Rude discovery number two you can't get all of the laminations back into the windings because they are thicker once you separate all the pieces and you will bend a few.

If you can get all the way through all that stuff and you try out the transformer you will find that it buzzes because you can never get all the laminations tight enough together (you did glue them all to each other, didn't you?) so they won't vibrate.

After I re-wound this small transformer I ended up with a transformer with about 22 volts on the secondary - way too much voltage!. Let's see, I had 10 NiCads and the fully charged voltage is 1.45 volts per cell, so with 10 cells I needed 14.5 volts. To get the output voltage down to a good level, I figured I could just wire up a whole bunch of silicon diodes with 0.7 volts drop across each one so I would end up with 14.5 volts coming out of the charger. I figured 21 diodes would be about right but it turned out I needed 22.

(What I Made continued on page 8.)

#### (What I Made continued from page 7.)

I put a 12 volt pilot lamp in series with the output of the rectifier to the string of diodes to limit the current. The lamp serves as a pilot light and it limits the current the charger will put out and you can sort of tell how much current is flowing. If the light is not quite regular brightness there's barely any current flowing and if it's so bright it looks like it's going to burn out because there's a lot of current flowing. Actually, with a dead short (there's no such thing as a live short) the charger puts out 140 mA, which is real close to the current you would want to use with AA NiCads; and the current tapers off nicely as the cells come up to full charge.

So the next time you need a transformer, just rewind one you already have.

Not so fast, grasshopper. Beg, borrow or steal a small transformer to replace or make what you need. You'll never be able to find, let alone afford, the magnet wire to rewind the transformer. One pound is probably the smallest you can buy. Do you know how many feet of wire are on a one pound spool of tiny magnet wire? Let's see - 200 mA means #36 wire. Let me see, in the table here it says, oh yeah, there it is - one pound of #36 magnet wire is 12,380 feet. Geez, how many transformers do I have to rewind?

Yeah, cut to the chase - buy a wall wart. By the way, many wall warts now have a fuse in the primary or secondary. When it dies just split the case along where they glued it together (I like to carefully cut it open with a hacksaw) and see if there is a fuse. They're usually wired-in, so bridge it with another fuse or live dangerously and jumper the fuse.

I still have and use my universal NiCad charger.

Bill WA9ASD

You may be a ham radio operator if... You have answered the telephone with your call sign, and then finished the conversation with "73" and your call sign.

## Ham Radio at the Boston Marathon

[Thanks to Mary NØTRK for bringing this to our attention.]

There were nearly 150 amateur radio volunteers maintaining communications along the 26-mile course of the Boston Marathon last month. Things were going as expected until the bombs went off; but even amid the confusion, the hams operated in a professional manner: procedures were followed and nobody panicked. Though cell phones were down, the people in Net Control were able to contact the hams along the course and stop the race. First aid people and other emergency workers were able to quickly get to where they were needed.

For details, see the excellent first-hand report by Tim Carter, W3ATB, on his web page at http://w3atb.com/66-boston-marathon-2013-bombs-carnage-and-amateur-radio-operators (http://tinyurl.com/cc8tql3).

Bill KCØSVZ

## When is a Metal Pipe in the Ground not Grounded?

Cliff d'Autremont, K6LH

[If selecting a pipe to ground your antenna, make sure it's actually grounded!]

My study of "ground" began when I was 12 years old. My brother Dick (KBØKJV, Ak-Sar-Ben ARC) is 12 years older than I am and he was working for AT&T Long Lines in Davenport, Iowa where we grew up, before he moved to Omaha. I would absorb as much telephone, radio, electricity, and electrical wiring education as I could from him.

One particular facet that he would talk about is "ground." Specifically, he said that ground is a conductor. Whoa, say what? Dirt conducts? He told me that when he was my age he strung a single wire from our house across an empty lot to a neighbor's house for a telegraph system with a key and a sounder on each end and a battery, using ground as the return path, same as telegraph systems have done since the 1800s.

I had two old handsets and a battery and scrounged enough wire to run a single wire from my house to a neighbor kid's house and we tried it out, one wire and a ground. Sure enough, it worked, although it was rather noisy, but we could talk. I concluded that ground indeed conducts. Albeit noisily.

So, if ground conducts, how much resistance is there? Dick had given me a nice VOM to encourage my interest in electricity. I took it outside and poked the probes into the dirt about 6 feet apart and measured the resistance of ground. About 1000 ohms. (Only about an inch of metal on each probe stuck in the ground.)

Fast forward to a few months ago when I decided to put up an OCFD (Off-Center-Fed-Dipole) wire antenna. I would take down my 30-foot TV mast that supported a two-meter antenna and put up a heavier pipe and this time pay attention to grounding, both for lightning/electrical fault protection and RF grounding.

First thing I noticed was that the gas pipe wasn't strapped to the nearby electrical panel ground rod, which had been recently installed with the new solar panels. So I probed between the gas pipe and the ground rod to check for continuity and found not only that it wasn't connected, but I measured about 600 millivolts between them. The solar panel electrician said that gas pipes are strapped to electrical ground. I went to the other side of the house where there is an electrical sub-panel for the spa and found that the electrical panel and the gas pipe were a dead short. What gives?

A ham friend (Scott, N6LEM) who had worked as a Motorola radio tech, solved the mystery for me. Buried gas service pipes (mains) have insulation wrapped around them to isolate from ground and they also have a voltage applied to prevent galvanic corrosion, which occurs when two dissimilar metals are in contact, or when a metal is in contact with earth. Wikipedia has two nice articles, one on Galvanic Corrosion and one on Cathodic Protection, and in particular, buried pipes. Mystery solved.

As it turns out, there is electrical isolation between the buried insulated gas pipe from the street, and the gas pipe into the house. The isolation takes place at the gas meter. When I measured the house side gas pipe to the ground rod, I measured a dead short. For the mains service side to the ground rod, I measured 600 mV.

(When is a Metal Pipe in the Ground not Grounded? continued on page 10.)