

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club
KØUSA
Omaha, Nebraska
Presents the

OMAHA HAMFEST 2009

Sunday, October 4, 2009 9:00 AM - Noon
Nebraska Crossing Shopping Center

Exit 432 on Interstate 80 @ Highway 31

14333 South Highway 31
Gretna, NE 68028

Admission: \$3

Major Suppliers have been invited
Flea Market • Door Prizes • Forums
Refreshments • ARRL Sanctioned

Name: _____ CallSign: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____ eMail: _____

1st Table ___ x \$7 Each Additional Table ___ x \$6

Additional Admission: ___X \$3

Total: _____

Dealer Setup 8:00 a.m. - One Free Admission with 1st Table Only
Only Pre-Paid Tables Guaranteed

For More Info: Brian Zdan, KM0Y, 402-553-2610 bzdan@novia.net

For Table Rental: Marvin Taylor AE0EG, 402-659-6448 AE0EG@arrl.net

Area information and maps: <http://www.nebraskacrossingoutlets.com>

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

Volume LIX, Issue 9

September 2009

Market-To-Market Relay Race

The 2nd Annual Market-To-Market Relay Race will be on October 10th.

The Market To Market Relay is the only long distance running relay race in the state of Nebraska and is a fun and challenging event. The 86-mile course is broken into 21 stages with each runner taking on about three stages. Stages range from about 3 to 5 miles on a mixture of trails, paved roads, and highways between Omaha and Lincoln. We will be covering the first 10 stages of the race.

The Race starts at Old Market and Ends at the Hay Market. Communications is needed at the exchange points along the route, where the vans with the team runners make the exchange for the next leg of the race. Hams need to be on site approximately 1/2 hour prior to the runners arrival times and stay until the last runner leaves. Depending on the location along the route, that is between 30 minutes and 3 hours.

The earliest two need to arrive on site by 5:30. Others will need to arrive later in the day.

Please sign up using the provided web address
<http://www.mdare.org/heroes/machform/view.php?id=8>

Upcoming Events

September 11 AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 6:00 PM Red Cross

September 11 AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross

September 20 Boyer Valley ARC flea market, 8:00 to Noon, Mondamin, Iowa

September 26 River City Round Up Parade, contact Dar, w9hzc@cox.net

September 27 Make-A-Wish Bike Ride

September 27 Lincoln ARC Auction, 10:30 to 3:00 Scottish Rite Temple (16th & L), Lincoln NE

September 29 HDXA & AARC VE Test Session, 6:30 PM, Red Cross

October 3 AARC Hamfest 9:00 to Noon, see back page

October 9 AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 6:00 PM Red Cross

October 9 AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross

October 10 Market-To-Market Foot Race, See above

October 17 Octoberfest 2009, Grandview, MO, Grandview Middle School <http://www.southsidearc.org/>

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 (2009)	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net
Vice President (2009)	Dick Jones	N6KVA		n6kva@arrl.net
2008-2009 Board	Doug Rathman	NGØK	402-493-7369	dlrathman@cox.net
2008-2009 Board (Treasurer)	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
2008-2009 Board	Dan Olsen	KD7GSW		
2008-2009 Board	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
2009-2010 Board (Secretary)	Greg Carlson	N7JOD	402-305-2009	revgreg1@gmail.com
2009-2010 Board	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	AEØEG@arrl.net

Standing Committee Chairs

Programs	Dick Jones	N6KVA		n6kva@arrl.net
Public Service/Emergency	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
Education	Open Contact	Corby Krick	k0skw@k0skw.net	for more information
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Publications	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
Web Services	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Club Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7774	wa0zqg@yahoo.com
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL		k0il@arrl.net

Repeater Committee

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	Gerry Gross	WA6POZ	402-895-7367	wa6poz@arrl.net

Other Contacts

Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
Special Events Coordinator	Greg Ervin	KCØVTO	402-445-0317	gervin1@cox.net
ARRL Midwest Director	Bruce Frahm	KØBJ	785-462-7388	k0bj@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Clifford Ahrens	KØCA	573-221-8618	k0ca@arrl.org
NE Section Manager	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	402-421-0839	K0AIZ@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		ke0xq@cox.net
EC Douglas County	Darwin Piatt	W9HZC	402-991-0412	w9hzc@cox.net
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		

Ham Hum Delivery

If you would like the Ham Hum delivered electronically by email, please let NØUP n0up@cox.net know. We will make sure your hum arrives when the mailed hum would arrive. This is an opt-out of receiving the Hum by mail only. If you do not request an emailed copy, you will continue to receive it by postal mail. Ed.

Contest Calendar

September 2009

ARRL September VHF QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14
 North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13
 SARL VHF/UHF Contest 1600Z, Sep 18 to 1000Z, Sep 20
 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest 0600 local, Sep 19 to 2400 local, Sep 20

SRT HF Contest SSB 1300Z, Sep 19 to 1300Z, Sep 20
 Washington State Salmon Run 1600Z, Sep 19 to 2400Z, Sep 20
 North American Sprint, SSB 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 20
 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 0100Z-0300Z, Sep 21
 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27
 Texas QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 26 to 2000Z, Sep 27
 QRP Homebrewer Sprint 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 28

October 2009

California QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 3 to 2159Z, Oct 4
 10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint 0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
 Pennsylvania QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 10 to 2200Z, Oct 11
 Illinois QSO Party 1700Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19
 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 24 to 2400Z, Oct 25
 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW 0001Z, Oct 24 to 2359Z, Oct 25

Details check the following web site the week prior to the contest.

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

2009 Make-A-Wish Bike Ride

Sunday, September 27, 2009, from 6:00am until about 3:00pm

Amateur Radio operators are needed to staff water stops, SAG vehicles, bike repair vehicles, medical support vehicles, and last rider vehicles on the route.

- Pancake breakfast at the Percival, IA fire station starting at 6:00am,
- Please be at the Percival fire station no later than 7:00am
- Talk-in will be on 146.700- or 442.100+.
- Required resources will include a dual-band mobile radio and suitable antenna. If you do not have dual-band radios, 2 meter radios will work.

If you can participate, contact George Bellairs kb0zzt@usa.net and include your T-Shirt size, phone number, and times you will be available.

George Bellairs KBØZZT

Amateur Radio Tailgate Party

!!! FREE !!!

October 10th, 2009 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Home of John, N4OWG, 6904 Capehart Road, Papillion, NE

Vendors set-up 9:00 – 10:30 Provide own tables, tarps, etc....

Food Booth provided by **Bellevue Amateur Radio Club**

Club Meeting Minutes - August 14, 2009

The meeting started at 7:25pm with nearly 25 in attendance.

President's Report – Corby, KØSKW Club minutes for July were not taken, as there was no quorum. Hamfest coming on October 3rd, with details forthcoming.

Vice President's Report and Programs – Dick, N6KVA The program tonight is Roger, WA0ETE on Union Pacific Communications

Treasurer – Brian Zdan – KMØY – Treasurers report was not available

Unfinished Business - None

Committee Reports

- Repeater – John WBØCMC – working well!
- Public Service – Pat, KØCTU – OMMERS emergency prep day is this Saturday, 15 August. Volunteers needed! Babcock Bicycle Races in July. Sunday rain but went well. State games too. Make a Wish Ride coming. See Ham Hum.
- Publications – Steve, NØUP – Ham Hum out. Articles are needed.
- Education – Mary NØTRK – Technician classes will be Thursdays of July at Methodist Hospital in the Prairie Room, 6:30pm. Also contact Mary or Steve, NØUP regarding your personal info. Online ability for update coming. Info packets after get license.
- Membership – Mary, NØTRK – VOTED to approve the following as new members: KD0INR, Merrily, KD0INN, Derek, and KD0INP, Verner. Online database: You can change your information online.
- Field Day – Claudia, KCØSQX Looking at possibilities for 2010. Neal Woods is being looked at. Other suggestions include: Lutheran Church of the Master land at 180th and Dodge on the top of the hill. Elkhorn Crossing.

New Business - None

Other

- VE exam - Sept 29th Tuesday at 6:30-pm
- Fall Hamfest is Saturday, October 3rd. More info coming.
- Getting back to breakfasts at 90th and Center at 8am on the 1st Saturday of the month
- Dinner on the third Saturday at 108th and L at Perkins

The meeting adjourned at 8:42pm for coffee at Perkin's on 108th and L
Greg Carlson, N7JOD, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary

Threats to The Future of Amateur Radio

By Travis McArthur, KDØHCE

Besides my interest in amateur radio, I am also a computer programmer and often visit an information technology news website called "Slashdot". On August 13 they published a story about powerline networking, also known as powerline broadband. The idea behind this new form of networking is that instead of using cables designed to transfer data, one can use the existing powerline infrastructure. The problem with this is that powerlines were not constructed to handle data transmissions, and as such begin radiating and causing unbelievably high RFI, most of it centered around the amateur HF bands. As some may recall, the ARRL sued the FCC for suppressing information about how powerline broadband interfered with licensed spectrum users and won. So, when I found this article on Slashdot, I was immediately interested in what was to be said for this technology which has been largely abandoned by many manufacturers. What I found stunned me.

This article references another article written in a UK technology magazine by, Mr. Paul Ockenden. In his article, he purports to give an even-handed analysis of the pros and cons of using powerline networking technologies, including spectrum pollution. In his article, he discusses how the ARRL has worked with some manufacturers to try to reduce interference with ham HF bands. While this all seems valiant, he admits that even still, these devices cause RF interference. All of this wasn't particularly new to me, or to anyone familiar with this debate, but what really struck me was the attitude he, and others that commented on his article, had about the problems these networking technologies caused for our community. While he does admit that amateur radio is a longstanding hobby, one particular bit of his article makes me question his lack of bias:

"shortwave radio is a 'legacy' hobby while IP[internet protocol]-based communication is very much tomorrow's technology, with powerline networking forming an important part of this new world."

This quote made me quite irritated, but not just at this one man. What really strikes me is the fundamental disconnect between the amateur radio community and the world at large. In a modern world of networking, people often no longer see a reason for radio. Yes, fifty years ago it was quite obvious why amateur radio was important to people. When we had no cheap global communications network and your neighbor could get a message to your cousin two thousand miles away with their fancy radio, you thought that was a pretty useful thing. Times have changed though, and now many people no longer see the utility in having amateur radio operators around.

At least, they don't see a need until all else fails. The reality of modern communication networks that globalize the world is they have become increasingly prone to complete collapse. Often the more modern the network, the faster the communication and the less redundant it is. The internet is the first thing to go in emergencies, then cellphones, then regular phone systems, and often the power grids. Radio is still there. When all else fails, amateur radio. This credo is something many of us feel, and many of us have participated in emergency communications drills in the metro, many of us
Continued on page 5

Passing the Tech Test

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I teach One-Day Tech classes. At the start of each class, I go over the following to help focus students on what to keep in mind when taking the test. It occurs to me that these are good tips no matter who is taking the test, so if you know someone who will be testing soon, please feel free to pass along this advice.

Technical Topics

The Tech test is not very technical, but there are three technical topics that you need to know:

- Ohm's Law,
- How to calculate power, and
- the relationship between frequency and wavelength.

Ohm's Law

The basic formula for Ohm's Law is voltage (E) equals current (I) times resistance (R), or $E = I \times R$. On the test, there are several questions where they give you two of the values and ask you to calculate the third. If you're asked to calculate the current, you use the formula, $I = E / R$. If you need to calculate the resistance, use the formula $R = E / I$.

How to Calculate Power

The formula for calculating power is power (P) = voltage (E) times current (I), or $P = E \times I$. To calculate the current drawn, when given the power being consumed and the voltage applied to the circuit, use the formula $I = P / E$.

Relationship Between Frequency and Wavelength

There are several questions that require you to calculate the wavelength of a signal or some fraction of the wavelength. The reason for this is that antennas are often a fraction of a wavelength.

The formula that describes the relationship between frequency and wavelength is wavelength in meters = $300 / \text{frequency in MHz}$. One question asks for the approximate length of a quarter-wavelength vertical antenna for 146 MHz. To figure that out, you first calculate the wavelength:

- wavelength = $300/146 = 2.05$ m or about 80 inches

One quarter of 80 inches is 20 inches, and the antenna will actually be a little bit shorter than that because radio travels more slowly in wire than it does in free space. The correct answer to this question is 19 inches.

That's all there is to the technical part of the test!

Safety

There are lots of questions on the test about operating safely and being safe when working on antennas. My advice when answering these questions is to

always choose the most conservative answer. The two exceptions are when asked what is the lowest voltage and current that can hurt you. For these questions, the correct answer is the second lowest choices.

Emergencies

There are lots of questions about what to do in emergencies. There are two things to keep in mind when answering these questions:

- You should do whatever you can to help someone who is in an emergency situation.
- You can even break the rules to help someone in an emergency situation. This includes operating on frequencies you are normally not allowed to operate on and communicating with other stations in other radio services.

Miscellaneous Tips

Here are a couple of other miscellaneous tips:

- The answer is 'D.' If one of the answers to a question is, "D. All of these answers are correct," chances are that is the correct answer. There are 18 questions with this option, and of those 18 questions, there are only two questions--T3B06 and T5B03--where that is not the correct answer.
- Long-Answer Rule. Where one answer is a lot longer than the other options, chances are that this is the correct answer. I haven't done an exhaustive study of this, but when one answer is very long, take a good, hard look at it.

That's all I have. Good luck on the test!

When not helping people pass the Tech test and become good amateur radio operators, Dan likes to work CW on the HF bands and collect QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. To see what else he's up to, go to www.kb6nu.com

From Threats, Page 3

participate in ARES and SKYWARN, and the people in positions of power in emergency management know the utility of having amateur radio operators around. The public, however, does not. Part of the problem is because we are as professional as we are, and when things work out okay, most people don't even realize we're doing what we do.

In the end, none of this is really about powerline networking. This is one threat to our spectrum that we will overcome. There will be others. This is about the future of amateur radio, and ensuring that the next generation of hams will have the same privileges and responsibilities we do. How can we show people how we are of value? Well, as I said, the emergency management people already know. The only thing I can really say, and what I really want to get across, is the importance today, more so than any other time in our history, of being professional, kind, and encouraging to those we come into contact with, both within our hobby and outside of it. The more people see us helping during disasters and drills, the more people see it at public service events, and the more people associate a positive image with us, the more likely we are to be able to protect our spectrum and our beloved hobby's future.