

AARC Hamfest

Sunday October 5th, 2008 marked the day of the annual Ak-Sar-Ben ARC hamfest. This year it was held at the Millard American Legion Hall. Burghardt Amateur Radio Center and D&L Antenna were the main commercial vendors this year. Nearly 300 were in attendance.

The door prizes this year were from D&L Antenna who supplied a large number of the small prizes, the ARRL and Nebraska Frequency Coordinators who provided books, and Burghardts who provided the grand prize of a \$200.00 gift certificate. Steve Lindblom, N0ORU, of Anita IA was the winner of the grand prize.

There was also a VE testing session and forums that included kit building and direction finding.

See ya there next year.



Steve N0ORU winner of the \$200.00 Burghardts gift certificate, with the chief ticket drawer, Andrew "the Button Pusher", and Door Prize Coordinator Steve N0UP. Photo by WA0ZQG

Ham Hum Delivery

If you would like the Ham Hum delivered electronically by email, please let N0UP 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.

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

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November 2008

We have once again reached the time of year for board nominations. In accordance with the by-law change made this year in Article III, Section 1, paragraph A, directors have been reduced by 2. As a quick recap, this change was made to facilitate the board's ability to maintain a quorum at the business meetings which has been a challenge the past few years. The board make up in 2009 will be four officers, 2 directors, and the immediate past president. With this change considered I am presenting the nominations for this year's annual meeting as indicated below:

President _____

Vice-President _____

Director: Marvin Taylor AE0EG _____

Director: _____

You will note the nominating committee has not been able to fill several positions. As such, these will be filled from floor as has been done the last 4 years. This increasingly difficult trend is concerning. I would like EACH of YOU to seriously think about the club and consider taking a nomination to assist in continuing to make the AK-SAR-BEN ARC a strong, prestigious and foundation in Amateur Radio Clubs in the metro area.

It has also been an unspoken tradition of the Vice President accepting the nomination of President for the incoming year. Mary has asked me to relay she will not have the time to dedicate to the position of President. She has accepted the position of OMMRS recruiting and training co-chairman. Therefore she will not have the time needed to take the club in a strong direction.

I ask you all, again, to assess your dedication, position, and ability to accept a floor nomination. Help continue to keep the ARC as an ongoing strong organization. *Realistically, it takes only a couple hours each month.* If you are interested or willing to take a position please call me to discuss the details. Won't you consider helping?

Thank you
Greg Babbitt W0AAI
President AARC
402-934-8870.

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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President (2008)	Greg Babbitt	W0AAI	402-598-3030	w0aai@arrl.net
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2007-2008 Board	Rollie Miller	ABØNN	402-333-1606	ab0nn@arrl.net
2007-2008 Board	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net
2007-2008 Board	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	AE0EG@arrl.net
2007-2008 Board	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@cox.net
2008-2009 Board (Secretary)	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

Standing Committee Chairs

Programs	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
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Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net
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Member	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
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Other Contacts

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EC Washington County	Don Morgan	KBØVIY	402-427-7111	kb0viy@yahoo.com
EC Pottawattamie County	Terry Lindsley	KSØL	712-325-0107	ks0l@arrl.net

Contest Calendar

November, 2008

ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Nov 15 to 2359Z, Nov 16
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 15 to 0300Z, Nov 17
EU PSK63 QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 16
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 20
YO International PSK31 Contest	1600Z-2200Z, Nov 21
LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 22 to 1200Z, Nov 23
SKCC Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Nov 26
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Nov 26
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 29 to 2400Z, Nov 30

December, 2008

ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 13 to 2400Z, Dec 14
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party	0001Z, Dec 20 to 2359Z, Jan 4
SKCC Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Dec 24
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 27
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28

January, 2009

ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 3 to 2400Z, Jan 4
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 10 to 2359Z, Jan 11
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 10
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 10 to 0600Z, Jan 11
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 11
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 17 to 0600Z, Jan 18
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 17 to 0400Z, Jan 19
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 23 to 2159Z, Jan 25

For details check the following web site the week prior to the contest.

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

Upcoming Events

November 14	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross
November 18	OMMRS Training 6:30 to 9:00 PM, see page 3
November 25	HDXA & AARC VE Test Session, 6:30 PM, Red Cross
December 5-6	Skywarn Recognition Day, see page 3
December 9	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Red Cross
December 12	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross Annual Meeting and Elections

REWARD OFFERED

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of this desperate criminal

HOP-A-LONG CAPACITY

This unrectified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber.

He was charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named millihenry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving dc motor over a wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.

If encountered, he may offer series of resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend eddy current who was playing a harmonic.

For those who understand, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible.

Wanna Get on the Air for Sweepstakes?

One of the large ARRL operating activities is coming up. November Sweepstakes is November 15th and 16th. If you would like to get on the air for a few hours during this fun event, the HF station at the Douglas County EOC can be made available. As access to the facility is restricted and it is the weekend, we need to plan now. If there is enough interest, we will ask our trustee for the use of K0USA for the event and get on the air.

At this time there is only one HF antenna available. (Plans are still pending for a second HF station) but the HF station has a lot of height (on top of a 12 story building) and a 600 watt amplifier to help punch through some pile ups.

Sweepstakes starts at 3:00 p.m. local time on Saturday. How long we operate depends entirely on the bands and the operators. But we should be around until 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. If there is enough interest we can also go back on Sunday for a while. We'd have until 9:00p.m. Sunday.

Let me know if you are interested and which day and we can secure the callsign and the station.

Mary Joseph n0trk@cox.net

SKYWARN Recognition Day

SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

This year SKYWARN Recognition Day December 6th from 000Z to 000Z. Which means from 6:00 pm local on Friday night December 5 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday Night.

The Omaha/Valley NWS Office has participated in this event since its inception. But for this event to continue, we need YOU. This is a great time to get on HF in a fun event. You don't have to bring a radio, just yourself. If you'd like to bring your own radio, that is workable as well. Just let us know. Operators are needed for all bands, including 2 meters, as repeaters contacts count, as do APRS, Packet and just about every other mode. At this point there are plans for 3 HF radios and there are plenty of VHF and UHF equipment to go around.

The NWS really appreciates what Ham radio operators do for them and the community. Lets show the NWS that we appreciate them too and have a GREAT showing.

If you'd like to come out and operate let me know.
Mary Joseph N0TRK@COX.NET

OMMRS Training

This year the Annual OMMRS Training will be in a compressed format. While we won't be delving into as many topics, this training will cover the basics about OMMRS and the Hospital Environment. We have a new, more central location this year. Please plan on attending as an introduction to OMMRS if you are new to the program, or as a refresher.

November 18th, 2008
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Josie Harper Training Center
87th and Burt Streets
3rd Floor Conference Room
Talk-in on 146.940
Topics include:

OMMRS Overview
The Hospital Environment
Radio Operator Protocols and Procedures
The ARES/REACT Connection
OMMRS Equipment Steward Program

This month I am going to run a column from KB6NU, he is a ham radio blogger and provides a monthly column free to clubs. Hope you enjoy it.

[Let's Get on the Maker Bandwagon](#)

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a week ago, I got an e-mail from a ham down in Texas who had attended the [Maker Faire](#). "Makers" are people who love to tinker and make things. They even have their own magazine, [Make](#).

He was amazed at the lack of any amateur radio content. He wrote, "The Maker Faire was unbelievable. Incredible stuff. Pedal powered carnival rides, robots, computer drive routers, kits. Outside of a table with a Vectronics kit, and a license manual, and a QRP book, the only radio stuff was from a pirate radio group."

I'm kind of amazed at this as well. It just goes to show how disconnected amateur radio is getting from the mainstream. These are exactly the kind of people we want to get interested in amateur radio, yet there was no one there representing us.

Ham radio needs to be at these events and get plugged into the "maker community." The Faire has not yet released attendance figures for this particular Faire, but more than 65,000 people attended the Faire held in May 2008. Dayton, with its attendance of about 20,000, looks anemic by comparison.

I [blogged about this](#) back in May. One of the things I suggested then is moving Dayton to some place like Austin. Seriously, if you were a new, young ham, where would you rather go, Dayton, OH or Austin, TX? Let's be real here.

And can there be a worse place for an event than Hara Arena? The parking lot, where they hold the flea market looks like a mine field, and it usually rains, making the flea market a wet, unpleasant experience. Is it any wonder that fewer and fewer vendors choose to haul stuff out there? Some of us older hams might fondly reminisce about the bargain we found while traipsing around wearing a trash-bag poncho, but a story like that is not going to resonate with new hams.

Please don't get me wrong. I don't mean to badmouth the Dayton Amateur Radio Association or the Hamvention. I actually think that they do a great job, all things considered. I'm just pointing out that if ham radio wants to again be part of the mainstream, we have to get with the program. Unfortunately, that program probably won't be at the Hara Arena.

Ham radio has got to figure out how to latch onto the Maker phenomenon. At the very least, the ARRL should have a booth at the next one, and in

addition to all the books and t-shirts, they need to come up with some kind of demo or display to attract makers into ham radio. I don't know what exactly, but I'm willing to start talking about it.

This phenomenon might also be a boon for clubs who hold hamfests. Just as the computer craze turned ham swaps into ham and computer swaps in the 80s, perhaps ham clubs could turn their hamfests into a combination hamfest and Maker Faire in their communities.

As I said earlier, Makers are exactly the kind of people we want in ham radio. Let's go out and get them.

When Dan's not pontificating about ham radio, you'll find him working CW on 40m, teaching ham classes, or running for the ARRL Board of Directors. Read more by going to www.kb6nu.com. Send e-mail to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

New Online Exam Resource

I just created a set of free online exam practice tests that I hope you'll find useful. Within the practice tests, online study resources are provided for many of the questions. The list of resources available for each question is constantly growing because users can add their own favorite links to the study materials. Users can also track their test scores over time and see which subelements are giving them the most trouble. You can see all the practice tests at:

<http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/2008/10/amateur-radio-license-exam-practice.html>

Please let me know if you find it handy, or if you think of any ways to make it better.

73 de KD0FNR
Hamilton Carter

November 2008 AKSARBEN Club Meeting

Next meeting of the AARC will be November 14th at the Red Cross at 81st and Spring (Near 84th and Center) at 7:30. This month's meeting will be on County Hunting... presented by Mike NFØN.

All meetings of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club are open to the public. Door prizes are back! Refreshments will be served!