PO Box 24551
Omaha NE 68124-0551

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

Volume LVII, Issue 1 January 2007

Prez Sez

Welcome 2007! As we welcome a new year, we find Amateur Radio changing again. The FCC has deleted the Morse Code requirement for Amateur Radio and so 2007 will be a year of great change and a lot of education. With the expansion of phone privileges on our HF bands and the expected influx of more voice operators, we are going to make sure that members of the **AKSARBEN Amateur Radio Club** are well versed in the proper and legal requirements of being on HF Radio. This is a fun and rewarding hobby as all of us know and we fully welcome all of those that will be new to HF Radio. I would encourage each of you that is currently on HF to invite a friend over and show him or her your station set up and invite them to join you for a QSO or two.

2007 will find the AARC continuing to educate the public and each other about the benefits of radio. We will continue to be an advocate for VHF and UHF communication; even though most of us are probably wearing a cellular phone instead of a 2m HT on our belt. We will continue to make sure that Amateur Radio is a social activity through various hamfests, flea markets, club meetings, social gatherings, and conventions throughout the year. And we must also continue to practice our radio skills - through contesting, nets, exercises and field day activities.

I welcome all of you to join the AKSARBEN ARC during 2007 and to be a part of this great hobby that we all know and love. I welcome your input; at club meetings, via email, and over the air, to help our club grow and be the great club that it is and has been for well over 50 years!

-73, Todd - KKØDX
President, AKSARBEN ARC 2007
kk0dx@cox.net

New Leadership Elected

Elections were held on December 8th and there were two nominees from the floor for the Board Positions. The results of the election are as follows:

President 2007 Todd LeMense **KKØDX**
Vice-President 2007Greg Babbit **WØAAI**
Board 2007-2008 Rollie Miller **ABØNN**
Board 2007-2008 Corby Krick **KØSKW**
Board 2007-2008 Steve Schmitz **NØUP**
Board 2007-2008 Marvin Taylor **AEØEG**

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 solicitied. 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 (2007)	Todd LeMense	KK0DX	402-216-8633	kk0dx@cox.net
Vice President (2007)	Greg Babbitt	WØAAI	402-598-3030	w0aai@arrl.net
Secretary (2006-2007 Board)	Doug Rathman	NGØK	402-493-7369	dlrathman@cox.net
Treasurer (2006-20057Board)	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
2006-2007 Board	Gerry Gross	WA6POZ	402-895-7367	wa6poz@arrl.net
2006-2007 Board	Jim Harper	KC0SHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
2007-2008 Board	Rollie Miller	ABØNN		
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

Standing Committee Chairs

Education	Open Contact Todd LeMense kk0dx@cox.net for more information			
Government Relations	Jeff Reynolds	NEØDX		ne0dx@arrl.net
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Programs	Greg Babbitt	WØAAI	402-598-3030	w0aai@arrl.net
Publications	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-597-8666	n0up@arrl.net
Public Relations	Greg Babbitt	WØAAI	402-598-3030	w0aai@arrl.net
Disaster Prepardness	Jim Harper	KC0SHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
Repeater	Darrel Swenson	KØAWB		dswenson@wearne.net
Technical	Open Contact Todd LeMense kk0dx@cox.net for more information			
Club Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7775	wa0zqg@yahoo.com
QSL Manager	Ed Edwards	KØIL		eedwards@tconl.com

Other Contacts

Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
Club Callsign Trustee	Gerry Gross	WA6POZ	402-895-7367	wa6poz@arrl.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	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	402-944-7488	ka0boj@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Dick Newsome	WØHXL	402-451-1202	w0hxl@cox.net
Section EC	Jim Hitz	KCØDVG	402-642-2040	kc0dvg@arrl.net
EC Douglas County	Darwin Piatt	W9HZC	402-991-0412	w9hzc@cox.net
EC Sarpy County	Ray McNally	N5SEZ		n5sez@arrl.net
EC Washington County	Don Morgan	KBØVIY	402-427-7111	kb0viy@yahoo.com
EC Pottawattamie County	Terry Lindsley	KSØL	712-325-0107	ks0l@arrl.net

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E-Mail: k0usa@aksarbenarc.org

Membership Form 2007

This form may be used for any of the following purposes (check all the apply):

A. _____ Pay Dues _____Renew _____ New
B. _____ Change of Mailing Address
C. _____ Update personal information (new callsign, upgrade, etc)

Personal Information

Callsign _____ License Class _____ Name : _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ ARRL Member ?O Yes O No

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Spouse Information *(Complete Only For Spouse Applying at Same Time)*

Callsign _____ License Class _____ Name : _____ Email address: _____ ARRL Member O Yes O No

Minor Dependent *(Complete Only For Minors Applying at the Same Time)*

Callsign	License Class	Name	ARRL Member?
_____	_____	_____	-OYes O No
_____	_____	_____	-OYes O No
_____	_____	_____	-OYes O No

Annual Dues
(January thru December)
For Club Use Only – DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

O Full Member	$20.00 year	Amount: _____
O Accompanying Spouse	$ 4.00 year	Amount: _____
O Accompanying Minor Dependent	$ 4.00 year x # of minors renewing	Amount: _____
O Student Member (full time student)	$ 8.00 year	Amount: _____

Total Paid:_____

Mail to:

Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 24551
Omaha, NE 68124

AARC GENERAL CLASS

The AARC Board is checking for interest in a General and Code class for 2007. If you are interested in taking the class or helping/leading the class, contact a member of the Board of Directors.

Contest Calendar

January, 2007

MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 13 to 2359Z, Jan 14
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 13
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 13 to 0600Z, Jan 14
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 14
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 20 to 0600Z, Jan 21
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 20 to 0400Z, Jan 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 27 to 2359Z, Jan 28
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 27 to 1300Z, Jan 28

February, 2007

Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 3 to 2400Z, Feb 4
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 3 to 2359Z, Feb 4
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 3
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 3 to 0500Z, Feb 4 1300Z, Feb 4 to 0100Z, Feb 5
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 3 to 1759Z, Feb 4
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 4
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 6
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 10 to 2400Z, Feb 11
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 10
KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 10 to 1200Z, Feb 11
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 10 to 1200Z, Feb 11
British Columbia QSO Challenge	1600Z, Feb 10 to 0359Z, Feb 11
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 10
RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Feb 10 to 0100Z, Feb 11
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 11
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 12 to 2400Z, Feb 16
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 14
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 14
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 17 to 2400Z, Feb 18
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 22
Russian PSK WW Contest	2100Z, Feb 23 to 2100Z, Feb 24
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 24 to 2359Z, Feb 25
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 24 to 0600Z, Feb 25
North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 25 to 0300Z, Feb 26

For details check the following web site the week prior to the contest.
http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes - December 12, 2006

Roll

[x] KEØXQ – Bill [x] KKØDX – Todd [x] KMØY – Brian [x] NGØK - Doug
[ ] WØAAI – Greg [x] AEØEG – Marvin [x] WA6POZ – Gerry
[ ] KCØSHZ – Jim [x] NØUP – Steve [ ] KØSKW – Corby [ ] ABØNN - Rollie
Visitors - Dan – NØPOT, Mary – NØTRK, Pat – KØCTU

Minutes – Doug Rathman, NGØK

The minutes were approved as printed in the Ham Hum.

President's Report – Todd LeMense, KKØDX

Bill as past president thanked everyone for a good 2006 and turned over the meeting to our new president, Todd, KK0DX.
Todd's report as follows:

- Would like to move the board meeting to the Tuesday before the meeting, pending an open schedule at the Red Cross.
- Proposed that the December meeting be held offsite so that we can bring in food. This will be discussed in the future.
- Wants to increase membership for 2007.
- Looking for an Education committee chair.
- Wants a Friday meeting talk-in on 149.94
- Wants greeters at the meetings.
- Budget committee needs to meet before end of January.
- Wants to have a list of contacts that can be used for questions about the club and other ham radio topics.

Brian KM0Y made a motion that the board meetings be held on the Tuesday prior to the general membership meetings beginning with the January meeting, subject to scheduling with the Red Cross. Bill KE0XQ seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vice-President's Report – Greg Babbitt, WØAAI

Not present.

Treasurer's Report – Brian Zdan, KMØY

Money Market	19,419.70	Includes 63.64 Int.
Repeater Acct	1,186.12 2,000.00	Account CD
Checking Acct	3,233.83	Includes a 150.00 dep. from sale of more equipment from an old repeater site and a $15 check to N0UP for postage.
Total	**25,849.65**	

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As indicated above, $150.00 was deposited into the checking account from the sale of more equipment from the old repeater site.

A CD account for the repeater fund was opened with a balance of $2000.00.

Standing Committee Reports

Publications – Steve Schmitz, NØUP
Steve announced that he will be needing supplies for the Ham Hum publication. He also needs updated contact information from the board members.

Membership – Mary Joseph, NØTRK
Suggested various ideas to promote the club meetings and increase membership. For example, repeater announcements, community calendars, education classes, mass mailings, etc.

Programs - Greg Babbitt, WØAAI
Greg not present, but Todd proposed that the AARC could help with the upcoming National 10-10 convention.

New Business
Dan, N0POT proposed that the AARC have door prizes at the December 2007 meeting. This idea will be considered beginning with the January board meeting.

Information Items/Communications
Dan, N0POT suggested that we utilize the local television stations' community calendars to promote club events.

Next Meeting
The next Board of Directors meeting will be (pending the schedule change with Red Cross) Tuesday, 1/9 at 7:00pm. The next General Club meeting will be Friday, 1/12 at 7:30pm.
The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

_____
Doug Rathman, NGØK, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary

The 2007 Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium will be held on Saturday, March 24th, 2007 at UNL's Hardin Hall, 33rd and Holdrege, in Lincoln, NE. The 2007 theme is "Severe Weather on the Plains: Past, Present, and Future".

Nebraska Stratospheric Amateur Radio (NSTAR) and the Central Nebraska Near Space Project (CNNSP) are tentatively planning a dual balloon launch from the symposium.

Details are still being finalized, but it's expected there will be a spotter training session as there has been in past years. The CPSWS website is at http://cpsws.unl.edu . Details of last year's symposium are at http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/nebraska/cpsws2006photo-index.html .

session fee and fill out a NCVEC form 605. If the Element 3 written exam credit is valid, the VE team will issue the candidate a CSCE for the upgrade to a general class license. If the CSCE for Element 3 credit has expired (a CSCE is only valid for 365 days), you will have to retake the examination element in order to receive the credit toward your upgrade.

2. Post Session Process

The VE Team must prepare and mail all session paperwork to the coordinating VEC. Once the session arrives at the VEC, in accordance with FCC rules, the VEC staff must verify all session documentation. All 605 forms and CSCEs must have the candidate's signature and 3 VE signatures. The CSCEs used for General written exam element credit must be validated as being passed within the previous 365 days and/or the test documents must be confirmed as being passed. Finally, the session data and information from the 605 forms can then be keyed and submitted to the FCC. The upgrade should appear in the FCC database http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/ within a few hours and a new license copy will arrive in the mail in 7 to 10 days.

VEC Test Fee

As you can see, much of the same work is involved in both types of General class upgrades, therefore the administrative costs are embedded in the process.
The FCC has mandated that all paperwork only upgrades be done through a VEC via their VE Teams. The processing and administration of FCC "projects" such as this, actually places a greater demand on all the VECs. This is not a special case involving only a few people; we expect to receive a flood of upgrades to General. The paperwork only upgrade is not automatic for the amateur and the forms may not be sent directly to the FCC or the VEC office (again the upgrade must occur at a test session and follow FCC guidelines). The VEC test session fee is regulated (per annual agreement) by the FCC.

Northwest Missouri Winter Hamfest

Ramada Inn, St. Joseph Missouri, Saturday January 20, 2007
7:00 AM to 2:00 PM
The RAMADA INN of St. Joseph, MO. I-29 Exit 47, (Frederick Ave. Exit.)

Talk in on 146.85 (100 Hz Pl Tone) & 444.925 (100 Hz Pl Tone)
Admission Pre-registration: $3 each or Two for $5. At the door; $4.00 each or Two for $7.
Major Exhibitors ~ Associated Radio ~WBØW Inc
Hourly door prizes
For more information please see http://www.wb0w.com/winterfest.htm

Technician Class Licensees

FCC modifies the Amateur Radio Service rules by eliminating the Morse code exam requirements.
The effective date of the FCC's action will be 30 days after publication in the Federal Register -- most likely in February.

In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code test requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission adopted the long-awaited "Morse code" proceeding (WT Docket 05-235), and released it December 19. The FCC's action will eliminate the Morse code test as a licensing requirement to operate on HF.

Technicians Gain Operating Privileges
Once the changes are in effect, all Technician licensees -- whether or not they have passed a Morse code examination -- will have "Tech Plus" operating privileges. This means you will have all of your current VHF/UHF and above frequencies and also will have access to the Novice/Technician Plus frequencies on HF.

No Morse Code Test to Upgrade
Technicians can upgrade to General by passing the General (Element 3) written exam and to Amateur Extra by also passing the Extra (Element 4) written exam. No Morse code test will be required. Visit the ARRL VEC exam search web page http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml for test session locations.

Navigating through the Upgrade Process

1. Technician Amateurs who wish to upgrade to General have a couple of options.

a. We recommend that Technician licensees who have NOT yet passed the General written exam (Element 3) wait until the new rules take effect to upgrade. At a session, the candidate must present a photo ID and their current license, pay the $14 test session fee and fill out the NCVEC form 605. If the Element 3 written exam is passed, the VE team will issue the candidate a CSCE for the upgrade to a general class license.

b. Technician licensees who have already passed the General written exam (Element 3) or wish to pass the General written exam before the rules take effect, will then have to apply for the upgrade at a VE session once the new rules are in place. At a session, the candidate must present a photo ID, their current license and the non-expired CSCE document, pay the $14 test

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December 15, 2006

FCC MODIFIES AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE RULES, ELIMINATING MORSE CODE EXAM REQUIREMENTS AND ADDRESSING ARRL PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration (Order) that modifies the rules for the Amateur Radio Service by revising the examination requirements for obtaining a General Class or Amateur Extra Class amateur radio operator license and revising the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees. In addition, the Order resolves a petition filed by the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL) for partial reconsideration of an FCC Order on amateur service rules released on October 10, 2006.

The current amateur service operator license structure contains three classes of amateur radio operator licenses: Technician Class, General Class, and Amateur Extra Class. General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees are permitted to operate in Amateur bands below 30 MHz, while the introductory Technician Class licensees are only permitted to operate in bands above 30 MHz. Prior to today's action, the FCC, in accordance with international radio regulations, required applicants for General Class and Amateur Extra Class operator licenses to pass a five words-per-minute Morse code examination. Today's Order eliminates that requirement for General and Amateur Extra licensees. This change reflects revisions to international radio regulations made at the International Telecommunication Union's 2003 World Radio Conference (WRC-03), which authorized each country to determine whether to require that individuals demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an amateur radio license with transmitting privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz. This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current amateur radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of amateur radio.

Today's Order also revises the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees by eliminating a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician Class and Technician Plus Class licensees. Technician Class licensees are authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. The Technician Plus Class license, which is an operator license class that existed prior the FCC's simplification of the amateur license structure in 1999 and was grandfathered after that time, authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz, as well as frequency segments in four HF bands (below 30 MHz) after the successful completion of a Morse code examination. With today's elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained. Therefore, the FCC, in today's action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges.

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Finally, today's Order resolved a petition filed by the ARRL for partial reconsideration of an FCC Order released on October 10, 2006 (FCC 06-149). In this Order, the FCC authorized amateur stations to transmit voice communications on additional frequencies in certain amateur service bands, including the 75 meter (m) band, which is authorized only for certain wideband voice and image communications. The ARRL argued that the 75 m band should not have been expanded below 3635 kHz, in order to protect automatically controlled digital stations operating in the 3620-3635 kHz portion of the 80 m band. The FCC concluded that these stations can be protected by providing alternate spectrum in the 3585-3600 kHz frequency segment.

Action by the Commission on December 15, 2006, by Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration. Chairman Martin and Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell.

Stolen Radios

That's right. My car got broken into on January 2, 2007, between 13:00 and 15:00. I was around 120th and Leavenworth, in a nice neighborhood. Among the stolen, were 3 rigs. If you see any of these rigs, or hear anything strange on the air, let me know.

Yaesu FT-8800R (missing controls, as the thieves didn't take the control head) S/N 5d320209
Yaesu FT-857D S/N 6d590291
Yaesu VX-150 with velcro on the back, and missing an antenna.
The 857 was last tuned to 146.94. The 8800 will not power on, as there is not head.
Also stolen was a subwoofer and JBL amp, Blaupunkt cd player, Dell Axim PDA, and custom engraved iPod.

If anyone has any information, please contact me at k0skw@k0skw.net, or by calling me directly at (402) 540-5483.

Upcoming Events

January 9	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Red Cross
January 12	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross
January 13	HBQRP Group Meeting, Ashland NE
January 20	Northwest Missouri Winter Hamfest (See PG 9)
January 23	NCS Training, Council Bluffs Red Cross, 6:30 PM (See PG 7)
January 30	AK-SAR-BEN ARC/HDXA Test Session 7:00 PM Red Cross
February 6	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Red Cross
February 9	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross
March 3	SWIARC Hamorama

Net Control Training Class

When: Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 6:30pm-8:30pm
Where: Loess Hills Red Cross Chapter (Council Bluffs)

Pottawattamie. County ARES is conducting a class in Net Control Station training.

Description: The course covers the basics for conducting any on-the-air net. This covers ARES nets as well as area Club nets. It is presented with the understanding that each ARES jurisdiction and EC will have some way they want to conduct nets and develop their own preambles, etc. We intend to cover basic NCS skills needed for conducting 4 different kinds of nets:

- Formal ARES structured nets
- Informal club or comment nets
- Stand-by or call-up Net
- Special purpose nets (e.g. severe winter storms held during drive times)

Handouts include:

- NCS Training manual
- Local call sign reference list
- Sample NCS Tracking sheet

Skills covered:

- Preparations to call a net
- Handling Check-ins for Nets
- Managing Net business (announcements, informals, net reports, in/out, Questions, rechecks, emergencies, short training pieces))
- Managing difficult or on-air problem situations
- Working with "Break tags."
- Making a formal on-air Net Report to net manager
- Working with the net manager
- Repeater Status
- Backup repeaters

Other:

- Bring a 2m hand-held
- Something to write with

Target audience: Current NCS, new NCS, Net managers, ECs, net participants.

For more information or clarification of this information contact:

Terry Lindsley, ks0L
712-328-5779 (w)
712-325-0107 (h)
Ks0l@cox.net

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.