AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# HAM HUM

Volume LIII, Issue 9e September 2003

*Special Points of Interest:*

- Ham Radio Ops Asset for Homeland Security
- Recollections of a Neophyte Ham
- Hams Help out in the Blackout
- BPL News

- Next Club Meeting - Sep 12 —730pm Red Cross

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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 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 540304, Omaha, NE 68154 or email to Linda Newman at w0nsa@arrl.net. Please contact the editor for permission to reprint anything appearing in the Ham Hum.

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# Ham Radio Operators Become Asset for Homeland Security

After space shuttle Columbia exploded in February, emergency workers in East Texas trying to locate the debris quickly learned that the easiest way to communicate wasn't by e-mail or cell phone—it was ham radio. Rescuers in New York had made the same discovery after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Now, emboldened ham operators want the rest of the nation to stop thinking of them as geeky basement hobbyists and start regarding them as valued assets to homeland security. They are lobbying successfully for federal funds and recognition.

"We're not a hobby. We're an amateur radio service," said Jim Haynie, president of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the Connecticut-based national ham operators' group.

Susana Raab/Newhouse News Service

**H.D. Scott, left, and Daniel Blasberg are volunteer ham radio operators for their Maryland county's emergency communication system.**

Unlike cell phones and the Internet, ham radios can handle massive surges in traffic and rarely succumb to technical glitches. Users are experienced and enthusiastic, always willing to volunteer during disasters as a backup when other methods of communication fail.

But they complain that their efforts often go overlooked. "Amateur radio's been in the shadows for 75 years," Haynie said. "We always did our thing and then went home; we are our own worst publicists. But I've been spending a lot of time in Washington trying to get us recognition and legitimacy."

**A formal agreement**

Haynie's efforts appear to be paying off. His group received a rare $181,900 federal grant last year to expand emergency training for homeland security volunteers.

And the Homeland Security department recently signed a formal agreement with the group to work on ways to expand ham radio's popularity as a public safety resource. The agreement calls for the agency and radio league to collaborate on raising awareness about amateur radio, to provide training and accreditation for users and to form local Citizen Corps volunteer councils to support rescue efforts.

"We're very dependent on ham radio folks," said Ron Castleman, chief operating officer for the Homeland security Department's Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, formerly the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "When something adverse does happen, they're first to keep the information flowing, often without electricity."

As part of this summer's annual Field Day preparedness exercise, local ham operators nationwide are looking for closer relationships with city and county emergency operations centers, who they say sometimes regard ham radio with suspicion.

All too often during emergencies, those officials "want to be in control of everything, especially the police," said Jeff Reinhardt, mayor of Agoura Hills, Calif. "Some

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# Prez Sez

The last quarter of the year is upon us. The year has been interesting to say the least. But the past is the past and the future is staring us in the face. It is time to begin the search for the officers who will guide our club into the future. I have been in contact with Dick Jones (K6NVA) our Vice-President who has informed me that, for health reasons, he has decided not to run for the office of President. I have come to know Dick (and Claudia) fairly well in the past year. I count him as a friend and respect his decision not to seek further office. I am sure that he will be around and active in our clubs activities in the future.

Elections - As far as the elections are concerned, this December we will be electing a full slate of officers and we need at least two, dues paying, meeting attending, knowledgeable members for each of the positions. The offices needing to be filled in the upcoming election are: 2 members at large board of trustees; 1 Treasurer; 1 Secretary; 1 Vice-President and 1 President. As you can see, it promises to be a long night.

Fleaesta - 13 September 2003 - Pat Joseph (KØCTU) has promised a full house at the Springfield Fairgrounds again this year and it appears that he will be again exceeding his expectations. He has vendors lined up bringing us everything from custom embroidered caps to left handed widgets (what ever they are). Someone said that "if you cant find it at the Fleaesta, you really didn't need it in the first place." While I like the sentiment, I think that it may be overstating the event just a little. But don't take my word for it, come out yourself and see. Come early, come hungry as we will be selling the world famous pancakes at a price so low, I can't even mention it here.

BPL - I recently received a e-mail from Todd LeMense (KKØDX) regarding the BPL issue. As many of you understand, my main interest is in VHF & UHF communications. I have little knowledge (but it is growing since Dayton) of the HF bands and their issues. Todd has said *"I would strongly suggest that the club begin teaching the membership about BPL. The BPL seminar that I attended earlier this month in Eastern Iowa was a major eye opener and if BPL does arrive in Omaha, we can kiss Amateur Radio good-bye."* While I do not want to be an alarmist, this is something I know little, if anything, about, but appears something that we all should be aware of. I have asked Todd if he would be willing to give a presentation on the matter at a future meeting.

73's, Jim Westcott KAØKCV

# Veep Speeks

At the July meeting I asked the membership if anyone in the club collected old military radios. My thought was a meeting program on them but I got no response. I got the idea when I remembered a vehicle I saw at an air show at Gillespie Field in San Diego. It was in 1994 and the air show was commemorating D-Day +50 Years. There were a lot of WWII aircraft and vehicles on display. The one that caught my attention was a nicely restored Dodge Power Wagon staff car. Now, these Power Wagons are BIG machines with a trunk to match, they seat about 12 and the top of the windshield is near 6 feet off the ground. This particular vehicle had a trunk FULL of radio gear, HF I guessed and capable of both CW and AM as both a key and mike were visible. A huge power buss connected several pieces of equipment but I couldn't see the power source, probably batteries, and there was no one around to talk to. I wish I had taken some notes on what I saw. I remember telling a friend that today's equivalent equipment would probably fit in a shirt pocket. I never cease to be amazed at the changes in technology. There has been incredible advancement in ham radio gear in just the past few years, especially in all-band mobile radios. It seems every year brings a new smaller radio in this class. I just watch in awe and keep saving my pennies. If only antenna technology could have kept pace, but that may be beyond the laws of physics.

73 de Dick Jones N6KVA

# Ham Radio Operators Become Asset for Homeland Security (cont.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

of them have to relearn that they can indeed be in control and still depend on the volunteers. But they've got to nurture those relationships."

Reinhardt, a ham enthusiast for 12 years who is active in ARRL affairs, said he hopes such efforts can help enhance ham radio's image. "A lot of folks don't understand what we do. There's been a tendency to lump us in with geeks," he said. "We come from all walks of life."

Ham radio operators use a console and a microphone to transmit short-wave signals—either voice or Morse code—that "bounce" off the ionosphere from their home, boat or car transmitters to receivers' antennas.

There are approximately 835,000 licenses hams in the United states, and about 160,000 belong to the ARRL. They own equipment ranging from $150 walkie-talkies for neighborhood use to ultra-sophisticated and powerful sets that can communicate worldwide and cost upwards of $5,000.

**Coordinating information**

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, New York officials found that ham radio was the only way they could coordinate the sharing of information among firefighters, medical examiners, health and technical workers. At the Pentagon plane crash, hams also provided help in ensuring that rescuers could talk to each other.

"It would have been a mess there if we hadn't gotten involved," recalled H.D. Scott of Cheverly, Md., a volunteer with the Prince George's County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, a ham emergency group in suburban Washington.

As soon as they heard the news about February's Columbia explosion, hams from across Texas converged on Nacogdoches County, one of the counties where debris landed. With cell phone coverage sporadic in the hilly terrain, every search-and-recovery team took at least one operator on its missions.

"We got a lot of kudos and pats on the back," said Tim Lewallen, a manager at a Nacogdoches computer company and ham operator. "That's the only pay we get."

Haynie believes the time has arrived for federal officials to provide some funding. He noted that ham radio operators tend to be middle-aged—their average age is 52—and that they need to start expanding their training programs for schoolchildren.

"If I had a magic wand and I could get from the Education Department or National Science Foundation a million dollar grant where the proceeds and interest would fund these school programs, I could make a difference," he said.

Haynie also wants to ensure that operators have enough broadcast spectrum on which to operate. In the last 15 years, he and others said, the frequency bands allocated by the Federal Communications Commission to amateur radio have been substantially reduced.

In Congress, a bipartisan group of lawmakers in the House and Senate are sponsoring legislation that would ensure there is adequate spectrum available to amateur radio operators.

Meanwhile, ham operators in New York and other states are lobbying officials to pass legislations that would continue to give them the right to set up radio antennas.

By Chuck McCutcheon, Newhouse News Service
Minneapolis Star Tribune - Sunday, July 13, 2003.

# Younkers Community Day Event
# Saturday, November 22 7am-9pm

Once again the AARC, as a 501c3 organization, is participating in this fund raising event.! Tickets will be available for sale a the next 3 club meetings. Your ticket includes $5 off purchase (so you get your $ back), 20% off coupons, door prizes every hour including a trip to Disney World, entertainment, restaurant sampling, and children's activities.

# Recollections of a Neophyte Ham

*This article was recently sent to Hugh Tinley, KØGHK from an old friend. It was first posted in the Omaha World Herald in 1988 and was about what life was like for a new ham back in the 50's and 60's. Hugh was the new ham and TV was the new fad for Omaha, and it was through TV and amateur Radio that he became well acquainted with the FCC. Read on to see how the community got, courtesy of the FCC, a handcuffed volunteer who would be forced to serve a four year sentence as Chairman of the Clubs TVI Committee!*

I couldn't believe it. In six short months I had, with my ham radio, managed to dissolve the picture on half of the television sets in the neighborhood, was heard on a dozen bedside radios and had become a noisy third party on nine telephones.

My crowning achievement, if you would call it that, was an ability to run a radio-controlled garage door up and down for a dumbfounded bachelor who lived a block up the street. All of this hadn't gone unnoticed by the Federal Communications Commission.

"Tinley," the FCC engineer finally told me, "if you and that stupid radio of yours ever goof up another thing in this neighborhood, we are going to take a long hard look at your license. "

I could tell he was miffed—and he probably had reason. I had only been a ham for six months, but in those six months this poor public servant had made five special trips to Omaha from Kansas City in a futile attempt to establish peace in my neighborhood.

It all began 32 years ago when I got my amateur ticket (license). To get a ham license in those days—and it's pretty much true today—you had to send and receive Morse code at 13 words a minute and know the theory of radio and the laws that govern it.

Well, I could handle the front half of this—the military had taught me the code, but little else. In the Army, the rule was, "If the radio ain't broke, don't try and fix it. If it is broke, get another one." When you're getting shot at, you don't have time to haul out a soldering iron. After cramming like crazy I took the ham exam and managed to get a passing grade. You could miss 12 questions and as it turned out that's how many I missed.

Though getting "on the air" was a thrill, I found as time went by that I was chewing up the picture on their TVs and was coming in loud and clear on radios, stereos, intercoms and telephones.

I even had a call from Father Sullivan, the pastor at the neighborhood Catholic Church. He gently suggested that if I was planning to go to church on Sundays, that I stay off the radio. He was sure I would profit from the experience and he knew his flock would, since I was coming in very loud on this church PA system.

It is a sad story, but you might as well hear the whole thing.

After the FCC engineer rattled my chain, it was back to the test bench. I worked all that Saturday, and by the next morning I was convinced I had not only solved my problem but the whole problem of radio interference. I was a second Marconi.

Sunday morning, bushed but happy, I was on the air telling anyone who would listen how I had solved the complicated problem of radio interference.

Unknown to me, the FCC engineer had stayed in Omaha overnight, and Sunday morning he had gone to my neighborhood church. As Father Sullivan started his sermon, my voice came out of the speakers louder than his. It wouldn't have been so bad if I hadn't been telling the world—and all those good churchgoers—that I would be glad to share my brilliant discovery with the FCC.

Monday morning at 7:30 the doorbell rang, and there in all his tightlipped glory was my friend from the FCC. He accepted coffee and sat there looking at me while he drank two cups.

Finally he said, "If I would ask, I honestly doubt you could tell me the difference between a kilocycle and a motorcycle." With that he told me the pitiful story of my Sunday sermon.

"If I had come out here yesterday after church," he said, "I might have lost my temper."

I wanted to tell him I thought he was rapidly losing it now, but thought better of it.

"We at the FCC don't have a very high regard for your technical skills," he said. "But frankly, we're amazed that you haven't been lunched by your neighbors.

As he started his third cup of coffee, he said, "What we have decided to do is to appoint you as chairman of the Interference Committee for the metropolitan area of

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# Recollections (cont.)

*(Continued from page 6)*

Omaha. There is no one in the country who has had more experience getting into things than you. We think it might quiet you down if you got out from behind that microphone and came face to face with, not only your own neighbors, but with all of the other people in the city who have interference problems. "And do you know what?" he added with a nasty leer, "We think that if you do this long enough, you just might learn something."

One does learn, and eventually I did—probably because the FCC kept me on this non-paying job for four years. Actually, it was the passage of time more than anything that solved the problem of interference, not only in Omaha but around the country. Amateur gear improved, but so did TVs, radios, stereos and others. Interference problems still occur, but seldom are they caused by amateurs.

Back when I got my ticket, the FCC was really between a rock and hard spot. Television was new and TV sets, along with the mass-produced radios, often couldn't tell the difference between a signal they should receive and one they shouldn't.

As a ham, I was a pain in the neck to my neighbors and a big nuisance to the FCC, but it was by divine intervention, I'm sure, and not my own skill, that my signal was staying on the ham frequencies. Technically, I couldn't be put off the air.

In looking back now, I can't help but marvel at how smoothly the FCC handled the problem—and me. By scaring me half to death—which they did—they not only kept me off the air until I learned more about radio, diplomacy and public relations, but in the process they transferred most of Omaha's interference problems off their shoulders and on to mine.

Years later, the FCC engineer and I became good friends. "Did I scare you?" he asked me once.

"Scared," I said, "I was paralyzed. The FCC has always been the ham's best friend. They have some good troops."

The part amateur radio plays in disasters is a story in itself—and a never-ending one. Inevitably in major emergencies the first two casualties are electric power and communications.

After disaster strikes, amateurs using battery-powered gear backed up with emergency generators are the ones who carry the communication and power load in those first hectic days. Sometimes, those days stretch into weeks.

Thirty years ago, I would park myself on a mud bank 15 miles west of Omaha and watch the small community of Valley sink under water. The spring floods on the Platte and Elkhorn rivers would do their thing and, with a gurgle, down would go Valley.

Mine was a twofold job—first, to keep Dick Eilers at the Red Cross in Omaha posted on what was going on, and second, to get out of there before I went under with Valley.

How I remember those six-meter transceivers we were using in those days—they were heavy enough to make a good anchor for a boat. We yell about as far as we could transmit, but we did communicate, and we did learn.

Since then, floods, fires, tornadoes and hurricanes have come and gone across the country and amateur equipment has continued to improve.

In 1975, one of the country's worst tornadoes stuck Omaha. Though the property damage was appalling, thanks to advanced radar, superb communications and some outstanding weather people, only three lives were lost.

Amateurs working with the US Weather Bureau, spotted and tracked the tornado before it struck and afterward handled communications for the Red Cross and Civil Defense. In this disaster the hams were kept busy for weeks.

Watching today's amateurs handle emergency communication I can't help but marvel at how far the state of the art of communications has come since my days on that mud bank at Valley.

As for my work with the Interference Committee, John Droescher, a ham and an old friend, had the bad luck of having his signal get into the hearing aid of a sweet little 81-year old grandmother. After poor Grandma almost lost her mind, her daughter called the city's rescue squad and the, in turn, called me.

When I got there, Grandma was stretched out on the davenport in a state of shock, but we finally got through to her.

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# Recollections (cont.)

*(Continued from page 7)*

"Mother," we said, "it's a ham, a radio amateur that you're hearing".

When she realized what was happening, she took my one hand in both of hers, looking up at me, and said, "Mr Tinley, I thought that voice I was hearing was coming from heaven and that I had actually passed on."

Another amateur had a neighbor who got off work at midnight, but before hitting the sack he would watch TV and toss back a couple of drinks. One night the neighbor hit the sauce a little heavier than usual, and when the amateur fouled up his TV reception, he loaded both barrels of his 12-gauge shotgun, held the screen door open with his foot and shot down the ham's antenna.

One of the interesting things about radio is that sometimes you don't need a receiver of any kind to hear a really strong signal. People living near broadcast stations that are using considerable power will tell you they often hear music and commercials coming out of the glove compartments in their cars, out of oven doors, light fixtures and sometimes even out of the fillings in their teeth.

We had an interesting example of this phenomena in Omaha. The late Todd Storz is remembered as quite a guy. He not only had the highest amateur antenna in town, but he had the smarts to put together a chain of radio stations that made him a couple of million bucks. Though I envied him his money, I really drooled over that antenna.

Shortly after moving into a new house, Storz discovered there was a pipe in the house that he could make talk. It wasn't easy, but transmitting at exactly 21.275 megahertz, and with a thousand watts of power, he could make his voice come out of the drain in his kitchen sink. One evening, as his wife was straightening up the kitchen, he fired up his rig and, picking up the mike, said, "Hey honey, I'm stuck halfway up in this drain and cant get out. Will you come down and help me—and for heaven's sake, don't use the garbage disposal."

Much of the pioneering work on major communication developments was done on the test bench of some amateur. Today, with the influx of millions of federal and private dollars into research, radio amateurs are leading members of the teams doing communications research work.

Amateur radio is a hobby in which amateurs are licensed by the government for the purpose of providing emergency communications and to conduct experimental work in communications. Working through their organization, the American Radio Relay League, amateurs have made major contributions in the assistance they have given the Red Cross, Civil Defense and the military.

Their work in handling radio traffic for servicemen in Vietnam was read into the Congressional Record as the finest humanitarian service to come out of that conflict.

But as a hobby, the romance will always be there for the blue-collar worker or the senior executive from the boardroom. Either will tell you that nothing gives them a greater thrill than to hear a voice from the outside of the world.

I'm glad I'm a ham, and thankful that the FCC engineer didn't tear up my ticket.

Hugh Tinley, KØGHK

# Hams - A Bright Spot in the Blackout

When a power blackout struck at least a half dozen eastern states August 14, many Amateur Radio operators were ready and able to provide whatever assistance they could. Hardest hit were metropolitan areas like New York City, Detroit and Cleveland. With the cellular systems overloaded or out altogether, the incident turned into a test of Amateur Radio's capabilities to operate without commercial power.

"It was a good drill," said New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba, KA2D. But, he adds, it was a cautionary tale too. "The lesson is that everybody gets a little complacent," he said. "Have emergency power backup and make sure it's working!"

By and large, Carrubba said, ARES members did what they were trained to do. "It's going to show the worth

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# Ham Radios Came to Rescue in Blackout

*Tue Aug 19, 1:14pm ET*
*By STEPHEN SINGER, Associated Press Writer*

HARTFORD, Conn. - When technology failed on a massive scale last week, some old-fashioned broadcasting stepped into the breach as ham radio operators took to the airwaves to reach emergency workers.

For millions of people in the Northeast and Midwest, the Aug. 14 outage took access to e-mail and the Internet with it. Landline and cellular telephones were jammed by a crush of calls. But the ham radio, which came into being in the World War I era, connected firefighters and police departments, Red Cross workers and other emergency personnel during the most extensive blackout in the Northeast since 1977. Ham operators are not dependent on a server or cell tower, and with battery backups can operate when grids can't.

"When everything else fails, the ham radio is still there," said Allen Pitts, a ham operator in New Britain. "You can't knock out that system." The radios are operated by a network of volunteers organized by the Newington-based American Radio Relay League. Ham radio's importance won renewed recognition after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. ARRL won a federal Homeland Security grant of nearly $182,000 to train amateur radio operators in emergency operations to help during terrorist attacks. "It's incredible the differences you're seeing, the large cadre of people who know what they're doing," Pitts said. "It's making a major difference."

Tom Carrubba, a coordinator for ARRL in New York City's five boroughs and two counties on Long Island, said volunteers went to work immediately after power went down Thursday afternoon. "In five minutes guys were on the air with the Red Cross and Office of Emergency Management," he said. During other disasters, such as severe weather, ARRL volunteers and coordinators activate telephone trees, Carrubba said. On Thursday, they instead hit their assigned frequency or staffed an emergency operations center. In the New York-Long Island region, with a population of nearly 10 million, about 100 ham radio operators handled the situation, Carrubba said. Some volunteers headed to a Red Cross headquarters or shelter, fire department, or hospital, he said. One hospital was temporarily out of power and ARRL volunteers provided communications to ambulances until electricity was restored.

Carrubba estimated that operators handled 800 to 1,000 communications from Thursday afternoon until early Friday.

# Hams - A Bright Spot (cont.)

*(Continued from page 8)*

of Amateur Radio," he said of the blackout response. "There were people on the air immediately."

In the Big Apple itself, ARES teams provided communication support for Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) set up at main transportation centers in Manhattan. ARES members also accompanied ERVs on fire calls. RACES activated in most Greater New York City area counties after a state of emergency was declared. In Ohio, Section Emergency Coordinator Larry Rain, WD8IHP, reports that all ARES organizations in northern Ohio were activated after the power grid went down. "ARES is handling communication support for Ohio Emergency Management in the affected cities and communities," Rain said. Ohio VHF and UHF nets and the Ohio SSB net on HF have been handling blackout-related traffic.

Bill Sexton, N1IN/AAR1FP, an Army MARS member, said his emergency power capability permitted him to check into the Northeast SHARES (National Communications System HF Shared Resources Program) net and maintain e-mail contact after Berkshire County lost power.

"The experience proved once gain the great strength of ham radio in an emergency," Sexton said. "It is self-starting, and it is everywhere."

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 32, August 15, 2003


# ARRL Reply to BPL Comments

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 21, 2003--The ARRL says Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proponents failed in their comments to the FCC to substantiate their claims that the technology will not cause widespread interference. In reply comments filed August 20--the FCC's deadline to receive comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 03-104--the League said that if the FCC is going to rely on industry statements in making decisions on BPL deployment, the industry should back up its assertions with technical studies and hard data and make these public.

"Unfounded assurances that BPL will not cause interference are no substitute for real-world measurements," the League declared, "and the FCC should rely on documented test results and an impact of interference potential based on scientific, not marketing, criteria." Generalized conclusions drawn about BPL's interference potential in industry comments "are premature and meaningless," the League said.

A form of power line carrier--or PLC--technology, BPL would use existing low and medium-voltage power lines to deliver broadband services to homes and businesses using frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz. Some BPL proponents--primarily electric power utilities--already are testing BPL systems in several markets and want the FCC to relax radiation limits.

"Power lines are ubiquitous, and attempts by the BPL industry to obtain relaxed emission classifications based on operating environment are obviously illogical and frivolous," the ARRL said, noting BPL would impact not only hams but public safety low-band VHF systems and other mobile systems.

In contrast to the BPL advocates' "blanket statements" of no interference from BPL field trial sites, the ARRL said its own field tests "lead inescapably to the conclusion that BPL will, if deployed, create widespread harmful interference." It predicted signal levels of up to 30 dB over S9 on a typical amateur transceiver, "well beyond what would preclude amateur HF communications entirely."

Noting claims by Main.net that it had received no reports of harmful interference in its worldwide trials, the ARRL countered that the tests had resulted in "strong protests from Amateur Radio operators." Austrian amateurs documented "massive interference" on video, and, in an unusual move, the Austrian Experimental Transmitters Union (OeVSV) filed comments in the BPL proceeding. BPL proponents argue that the European power distribution system differs from that in the US.

The League said measurements and testing should be done when the BPL systems are heavily loaded, treating the system's entire emission as a single device. "If all of the appropriate measurement factors are applied," ARRL said, "no access BPL system would be found in compliance with FCC Part 15 regulations."

The ARRL characterized some industry comments regarding the interference potential of BPL as "wishful thinking" and based on flawed premises. It said the League's own technical exhibits--attached to its initial and reply comments--show that BPL signals do propagate well and that overhead power lines make excellent radiators of HF signals.

The League also noted that comments in the proceeding so far have been silent on the interference susceptibility of BPL to ham radio signal ingress. The League predicted that even as little as 250 mW of signal induced into overhead power lines some 100 feet from an amateur antenna could degrade a BPL system or render it inoperative.

The ARRL called on the FCC to stop acting like a cheerleader for BPL. "It is past time that the Commission acted in its proper role as a steward of the radio spectrum and recognized the interference potential of BPL to the sensitive incumbent licensed services in these bands," the League concluded. "The Commission cannot stretch the Part 15 regulations as far as would be

*(Continued on page 11)*

# BPL Places FCC at Regulatory Crossroads

Encouraging Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology puts the FCC at a regulatory crossroad, the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) <http://www.amrad.org> has suggested. AMRAD's remarks came August 20 in reply comments filed in response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 03-104). The Washington, DC-based organization's comments also outlined its BPL testing and measurement efforts, which included laboratory and real-world conditions. AMRAD said any departure from the "current baseline" of Part 15 rules that govern unlicensed services would invite "troublesome unintended consequences" that could prove difficult to correct.

"The FCC is facing some serious decisions on whether to continue with past rules and historical enforcement or to dispense with their historical role and substitute rules which give the unlicensed Part 15 systems priority over the licensed systems such as the amateur radio service," AMRAD said. "Such changes to Part 15 rules would tip the responsibility of compliance so as to favor the unlicensed users and leave the FCC facing a large number of harmful interference complaints to resolve."

AMRAD recommended the FCC proceed "slowly and with caution" in advancing BPL as a viable and economical alternative to existing high-speed Internet technologies.

The non-profit scientific and educational organization expressed concerns as to whether the FCC would be able to enforce Part 15 rules as written in the face of neighborhood Internet service interruptions caused by "a single radio amateur or other FCC-licensed radio transmitter." It said its own testing has demonstrated that a 20-meter amateur transmitter running as little as 10 W in the vicinity of an in-house HomePlug standard BPL local network could seriously impair the system's throughput. A 100 W signal would cause it to collapse altogether.

Ironically, the HomePlug standard substantially notches out the amateur bands--something ARRL convinced the HomePlug Powerline Alliance to do after amateur complaints sparked a recall of HomePlug-standard devices. The new 60-meter band is not notched out, however.

AMRAD said its observations and tests demonstrate that broadband BPL signals that conform to Part 15 "are well above the ambient noise and will interfere with many forms of reception." It said other non-HomePlug-standard systems that don't notch out ham bands "could cause more serious interference problems."

In the final analysis, AMRAD said, the FCC "must proceed with great care and take actions now to conduct testing to gather critical information" before making regulatory assessments. "The FCC efforts should remain focused on providing broadband to the home and not focus on any specific technology," AMRAD asserted.

AMRAD member Frank Gentges, K0BRA, recently assisted ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, in the League's efforts to assess the impact of BPL on HF. Gentges gave Hare a guided tour of "hot neighborhoods" in Manassas, Virginia, where BPL is undergoing field trials.

Although the reply comment window closed August 20, the number of comments in response to the FCC's BPL NOI was 4553 as of August 29 and counting, with some 100 comments filed since the deadline. Many comments in the BPL proceeding have come from the Amateur Radio community.

AMRAD's reply comments are available on the FCC Web site <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6514683575>.

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# ARRL Reply to BPL Comments (cont.)

*(Continued from page 10)*

required to accommodate BPL."

The League's complete reply comments and technical exhibits are available on the ARRL Web site. See also the article "BPL is a Pandora's Box of Unprecedented Proportions, ARRL Tells FCC". Additional information and video clips are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page.

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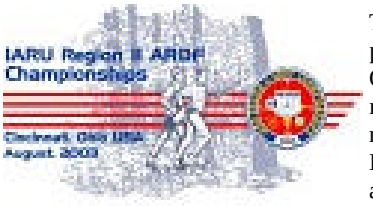
# ARDF Championships




The Third USA National Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Championships in Oxford, Ohio, are now history. Organized and presented by the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society, the competition July 30 to August 2 represented a top-notch event with excellent food, lodging, courses, maps and medals. This year, the USA Championships were combined with the Second IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships. The championships were open to anyone--at any ARDF skill level--from any country with an IARU Amateur Radio society.

Separate events were held on consecutive days on the 2-meter and 80-meter bands with five hidden transmitters each day, in accordance with standard IARU rules. Foxes transmitted for 60 seconds each in rotating sequence, sending an easy-to-recognize identification. The goal is to find the most fox transmitters and navigate to the finish line in the shortest time. Besides maps, contestants had a fox transmitter at the finish line on a separate frequency to home in on. The best overall performance was by 44-year-old Gyuri Nagy, HA3PA/KF6YKN, on 80 meters. He found his required four transmitters in just 1:08:43, despite having had knee surgery last year. Nagy had put on a week-long training camp for members of Team USA and Team Australia in his home city of Pecs during the week before the 2002 World Championships in Slovakia. Best all-required-fox performance by a female was the 1:12:59 time of Nadia Mayeva on 80 meters. Last year in Slovakia, as a member of ARDF Team USA, she placed fourth among D-35 category competitors from all countries on 80 meters. Mayeva brought her 13-year-old son Emil for his first ARDF event. Home training paid off for him too: He earned a gold medal on 2 meters and a silver on 80 meters in the IARU Region 2 Division, M-19 category.

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# Proposed Spectrum Bill

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, wants to see more letters urging members of Congress to sign on as cosponsors of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act bills in the US House and Senate. The identical measures, an ARRL initiative, are on their third try in Congress. Noting that cosponsor counts have changed little over the past month and that some lawmakers he's contacted had not yet heard from constituents, Haynie encouraged more League members to take the effort to write, call or e-mail their representatives and senators to explain the bills' importance. "Those letters are everything to a congressperson or a senator," Haynie said. "Without letters from constituents, we're just spinning our wheels." Conceding that Broadband over Power Line (BPL) has been taking the limelight in recent days, Haynie said passage of the Spectrum Protection Act remains important to the overall future of Amateur Radio. The Spectrum Protection Act would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs. A sample letter on ARRL's The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 Web page ‹http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html› cites Amateur Radio's role in public service activities. The page also contains information on how to identify and contact members of Congress and links to the Thomas Web site ‹http://thomas.loc.gov/›, where the bills' text and a list of cosponsors are available. "Just bringing the Spectrum Protection Act to the attention of your senator or representative is a major help in this effort," Haynie said. "This is not one of those cases where we're looking for donations. This is something that you--as a member--can do on behalf of Amateur Radio, and the most it will cost you is some stationery and a 37-cent stamp." Those writing their lawmakers on behalf of the Spectrum Protection Act are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail ‹specbill03@arrl.org›. HR 713 now has 44 cosponsors, while the identical S 537 has six. Cosponsorship lends support to legislation while it's in committee, and Haynie says letters and e-mails from members to their lawmakers remains the key to getting the legislation passed. The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 32, August 15, 2003

# ARES Update

Wow! What a change a few weeks can bring. Congratulations go to Bill Newman (KØNSA) on his promotion at work! Unfortunately with the promotion comes time consuming responsibilities, and something must give. In our case it was his leadership in the Douglas County ARES organization. As many of you saw, and some of you responded, he put a call out for interested people to volunteer as the Emergency Coordinator for Douglas County. I too "tossed my hat" into the ring and volunteered. At a meeting at the Jim Sanford (AAØH) residence a new EC was picked. While I was asked as the president of a local (albeit not the only) club I did not participate in the decision making process. Why you ask? I was busy helping a fellow amateur install a 2-meter mobile radio into his car, and as usual the 15 minute project took about 2+ hours. As a result I was given the nod (with Barbara's KCØHLB) permission, perhaps even before I arrived at the palatial Sanford Estate.

What's going to change? Nothing of any importance. You will be stuck with me on the Monday night nets (my first one was last night and it was short and sweet - perfect for a first time I thought)! I plan to put a strong emphasis on training. With the OMMRS project nearing completion (at least our part of it), the annual Offutt AFB disaster drill being over, summer vacation time winding down etc. etc. etc. the fall and winter months seem perfect for training. The Assistant Emergency Coordinators that were in place as of 30 July will (assuming that they want to) remain in place. If there is anyone of you out there who wish and are willing and able to help, contact me and we will happily find a place for your individual skills. As I mentioned to Jim Sanford and Bill Newman, I don't see the job of EC as running the "whole shooting match." I see it as a trainer, making sure that we as a group all have the skills needed to respond to a communications emergency as swiftly, skillfully and safely as possible.

Many inter local agreement, also know as MOU's, are already in place, some need to be re-evaluated, especially in light of recent events (such as 09/11/01 etc.) I have, and will continue, to pledge my continued support to the EC's of the surrounding counties as well as the Emergency Management of Douglas County. Having said that, we should all understand that our families come first. In an emergency their care and well being are our first priority - the community commitments are a distant second.

Jim Westcott KAØKCV

# Lewis & Clark Special Event

Fellow Hams:

On September 13 and 14, the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club will be operating W7PX from the Lolo Pass Visitors Center, commemorating the 198th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's passing this site. We welcome all hams in our celebration of this event. You are being advised of this Special Event, because your club is located on or near the Lewis and Clark Trail, and we are hoping to QSO with hams along the trail during this operation. The Lolo Pass Visitors Center is just west of the Montana/Idaho border in Idaho County, Idaho. It is our understanding that less than 60 hams may live in Idaho County, so it also may be in some demand by County Hunters. Special QSL card (SASE) and Special Certificate ($2) are both available. Briefly, we will be operating SSB (and CW depending on demand) on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters( as conditions permit). We also invite eyeball QSOs with fellow travelers on the Lewis and Clark Trail. In particular, we hope that hams from nearby locations can stop by and ragchew eyeball to eyeball, as conditions will probably mean our signals will skip right over them. Details about this Special Event can be viewed on our website: www.riversdreams.com/k7vk . On our homepage there is a link to the Lewis and Clark Special Event operation and QSLing. You may also go to www.QRZ.COM and look up W7PX to get QSL route. Hope to see you in September.

Bob Henderson, N7MSU, Lewis and Clark Committee Chairman

*Editors note: As of 9/1, the link above was not working, however, information can be found from the QRZ site.*

*The Hellgate Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Special Service Club that meets the 2nd Monday of each month at City Fire Station #4, on Latimer St (1 block off W.Broadway),in Missoula Montana. The meetings begin at 7:30pm. The club frequency is 147.040+.*

# Official Record Board Meeting Minutes for August 2003

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting**
**AkSarBen Amateur Radio Club – August 2003**

The AkSarBen ARC Board of Trustees met on Aug 5, 2003 at the Red Cross Building in Omaha. President KAØKCV called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Present were: Jim Westcott, KAØKCV, President; Bob Boetcher, NEØCQ, Secretary & Board Member; Board Members: Dave Rice, NØJSB; Bill McCollum, KEØXQ; Steve Schmitz, NØUP; and Geri Norris, N5RIG. Others attending were Barb Westcott, KCØHLB; Linda Newman, WØNSA; Bill Newman, KØNSA; Pat Joseph, KØCTU and Marv Taylor, AEØEG.

President's Report: Dick, N6KVA is in the hospital best wishes go out to him and get well soon! Dan Olsen KD7GSW resigned as board member, his term ends in December 2003. Bob, NEØCQ nominated Marv, AEØEG; Marv accepted and Geri, N5RIG 2nd, voice approval. Marv now needs to be approved at the next regular membership meeting by a majority of the members present. Mahoney Park has been the site for the previous two spring picnics. Jim, KAØKCV reserved the shelter for next year, the deposit was $30. For the Fleaesta, Omaha Rental will supply the dunk tank at 50% off, with softballs.

Vice President's Report: N/A

Secretary's Report: The board minutes for July were presented to the board. Corrections were made. Bob, NEØCQ made a motion to accept as corrected, Geri, N5RIG seconded, voice approval.

Treasurer's Report: KAØKCV-Treasurer is still awaiting the audit by AJØA and the members of the audit committee.

Standing Committee Reports:

Disaster Preparedness: Bill, KØNSA announced his resignation as Douglas County EC. If you are interested, please e-mail Bill, KØNSA, Bill, KEØXQ, Reynolds Davis, KØGND or Jim Sanford, NØAIH. OMMRS had a meeting to recap the Offutt drill and they were impressed by the communications capability of the amateur radio operators.

Education: The last VE testing session didn't have technician class tests available. Brian, KMØY is looking into the situation. Apparently the ARRL hasn't provided the new testing materials.

Field Day: N/A Government Relations: N/A

Membership: Barb, KCØHLB has been working on a new member packet. The current packet includes a welcome letter from the president, a copy of the club by-laws, a printed Ham Hum and a brochure on club activities. Membership procedures and accepting of annual dues need to be updated. More info as to new procedures will be discussed at the next board meeting. Suggestions are: 1) Any board member or club office can accept dues. 2) Dues upon acceptance should be sent to the club sec. (via P.O. Box) within five business days. 3) Club sec. can make deposits of dues and this info will then be forwarded to club treasurer within five business days. 4) Club Sec. then gets this information to the membership committee, so membership list can be updated. 5) New members upon completion of membership form will be voted into membership by a majority of the attending members of the next club meeting.

Public Relations: Barb, KCØHLB announced the Younkers fundraiser will be November 22. The club received proclamations from the state and city for amateur radio week and a thank you from the Governor.

Publications: No Ham Hum will be sent for August. If you want a roster please ask a board member or club officer and one will be mailed to you. If you want a printed Ham Hum fill out the form in the July Ham Hum and e-mail it to publications or membership.

Repeater Committee: Steve, NØUP inquired as to whether the club has insurance on the repeater and related equipment. Mobile Com has estimated the cost to replace the current equipment at $22,000, new. Repeater upgrades are still in the works and a SW metro and Bellevue RCV site are being looked at.

Technical: N/A Additional Committee Reports: N/A

Old Club Business: E-mail has been sent to Ron Clark (NØPOM) at Sarpy County that the Clegg 220 is being donated to Sarpy County ARES and any changes/repairs/etc. is that organizations responsibility. A committee is being set up to develop a procedural manual for the club officers and board members. The metal storage box for the club HF equipment has been fitted with foam and the HF gear and related equipment fits nicely.

New Club Business: Flea market is Sept. 13th; Volunteers are needed for the dunk tank, kitchen, setup and parking lot. The club may have a contest at the Fleaesta; details are still in the works. One-half of the tables have been sold. Remember the Fleaesta is the Sat. after the club meeting.

Announcements: Bill, KEØXQ current term as Section Manager expires on Dec. 31. Bill is not seeking another term. The club has some old RCA gear and cabinets. Steve, NØUP made a motion to sell this equipment at the Fleaesta via silent auction, KEØXQ seconded, voice approval. Steve, NØUP also made a motion for the club to retain one table, designating it as a consignment table at the Fleaesta, with the club retaining 10% of the sale price, with the club reserving the right to refuse equipment. All items left at this table must be picked up by 1:05 pm or be charged a disposal fee. The December meeting generally has a potluck dinner or a catered dinner. The Red Cross has objected to food being consumed in the meeting room. Unless arrangements can be made the December meeting may not have food this year.

Bill, KEØXQ moved to adjourn at 9:07 p.m., Steve, NØUP seconded, voice approval. .

Bob Boetcher, NEØCQ, Secretary

# Official Record General Meeting Minutes for August 03

**Minutes of the Business Meeting**
**AkSarBen Amateur Radio Club – August 2003**

The AkSarBen ARC met on August 8, 2003 at the Red Cross Building in Omaha. President KAØKCV called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and the standard announcements and introductions; there were 41 members and visitors present.

President's Report: Jim, KAØKCV announced Dick, N6KVA was ill and in the hospital at Immanuel.

Vice President's Report: N/A

Secretary's Report: The meeting minutes for July were published in the club website. No additions or corrections were noted, Gerry, WA6POZ made a motion to accept as published, KCØHLB 2nd, voice approval.

Treasurer's Report: Wayne, KØBWJ presented the YTD balance sheet and P/L statements to the club. He also noted money was transferred from the repeater fund to the general fund to pay for the new repeater. The balance sheet and P/L statements are available for viewing by club members. Contact k0bwj@arrl.net for more information

Standing Committee Reports:

Disaster Preparedness: Bill, KØNSA announced his resignation as Douglas County EC. A new EC is being sought. Please e-mail Bill, KØNSA, Bill, KEØXQ, Reynolds Davis, KØGND or Jim Sanford, NØAIH if you are interested in the position. Qualifications necessary for this position are noted on the ARRL website. The Offutt disaster drill in July was completed and the OMMRS group thought the amateur radio operators did an excellent job.

Education: N/A Field Day: N/A Govt Relations: N/A

Public Relations: Barb, KCØHLB announced the Younkers fundraiser will be November 22 (7am to 9pm), please sign up with Barb to sell tickets prior to the Nov. 22 event.

Repeater Committee: John, WBØCMC read a letter from WOWT notifying the club that the repeater equipment located at the station will have to be removed by Oct. 31, 2003. Due to the tower collapse at Crown Point, the aux. tower (downtown) will have to be used as and WOWT is replacing their antennas on this aux. tower, and they need the tower space. John, Steve (NØUP) and the repeater committee are researching new sites for the repeater. There are a number of possibilities for a new location.

Publications: Linda, WØNSA announced the August Hum will be a notice of the upcoming Fleaesta and the regular format will return in September. AKSARBEN talk will announce the availability of the Hum online. Gerry, WA6POZ had several questions regarding the mailing cost of the Hum, how many will be mailed now and how many are sent to other clubs at no cost. Basically, it is too early to determine the number of Hums that will continue to be mailed as forms were still being received.

Technical: N/A Field Day: N/A

Membership: Club rosters will be mailed to anyone who would like a copy just let Mary, NØTRK know. Bill, KAØVXK made a motion to allow the club roster to be received via email; upon request to the membership chair; Mitch, KCØMXV seconded. Wayne, KØBWJ noted if the roster was presented electronically, it could be used as a mailing list for spam. After discussion the motion was approved by voice vote.

Additional Committee Reports:

VE Testing: N/A Clothing: N/A

Special Events: Pat, KØCTU noted the Fleaesta will be Sept. 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sarpy County Fair Grounds. Help is still needed for Sat.; volunteers are also needed for the dunk tank. One idea was to have the club vote as to whom they would like to be dunked.

Old Club Business: N/A

New Club Business: The next club meeting is Sept. 12, the night before the Fleaesta. Because many club members will be helping setup and won't be at the club meeting, there will not be doughnuts, door prizes, or a program at the next club meeting. The Dec mtg generally has a Christmas party. The Red Cross doesn't like to have food in the meeting rooms. Bill, KAØVXK suggested having deli trays, with meat and cheese and make sandwiches; also include various types of bread and cookies.

Announcements: KKØDX will be attending the Amana Iowa Hamfest.

George, KBØQMN moved to adjourn at 8:38 p.m., WB CMC seconded, voice approval.

Bob Boetcher, NEØCQ, Secretary

# Area Club Meetings

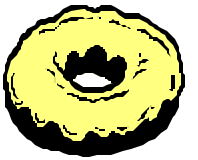
| Day | Club Name | Location |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Mon | NE City | NE City Fire/Rescue |
| 2nd Tue | BVARC | Courthouse Annex Bldg Logan, IA |
| 2nd Wed | Lincoln ARC | Sheriff's Assn Bldg. State Fairgrounds |
| 2nd Fri | Aksarben ARC | Omaha Red Cross 2912 S. 80th Ave |
| 3rd Mon (Mar,Jun,Sept only/Dec-TBA) | Sacmarc | Wendy's Galvin Rd |
| 3rd Thu | Bellevue ARC | Great Western Bank |
| 3rd Fri | HDXA | Backstreets, Omaha |
| 4th Thu | QCWA | Old Country, 76thDodge |
| 4th Thu | SW Iowa ARC | CB Red Cross, N 16th |
| 4th Fri | Pioneer ARC | Gambino's-Fremont |
| Last Sat | Plattsmouth ARC | Moms Café |
| Last Sun | Ashland ARC | Ashland Volunteer Fire Hall, 24th & Silver |

# DoNets

| Day/Time | Talk-in | Location |
|---|---|---|
| Tue 08:00 | 146.82- | Main St Café, CB |
| Fri 20:00 | 147.390+ | Wendys Galvin Rd |
| Sat 08:00 | 146.82- | HyVee, 16th St, CB |
| Sat 08:00 | 146.94- | HyVee, 132nd Dodge |

DoNets are unofficial, casual gatherings of Hams that occur between meetings. Everyone is invited to join in the fun, food and camaraderie each week at any of the locations listed above.

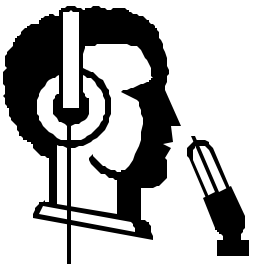
Give a call on the talk-in frequency before the scheduled rendezvous time and have 'em save you a seat! Please send any changes to w0nsa@arrl.net.



# Popular Nets

| Day | Time | Frequency | Net |
|---|---|---|---|
| S-S | 07:30 | 3.982 | NE Morning Net |
| S-S | 18:30 | 3.982 | NE Storm Net |
| M-F | 12:30 | 3.980 | Cornhusker Net |
| M-F | 20:30 | 147.090 | Dennison, IA |
| M-F | 21:00 | 146.760 | East NE ARES |
| Mon | 00:00z | 28.400 | 10m Phone Net |
| Mon | 01:00z | 145.090 | Packet Net |
| Mon | 02:00z | 434/421.25 | ATV Net |
| Mon | 20:00 | 145.235 | Sarpy Cty ARES |
| Mon | 21:00 | 146.940 | Douglas Cty ARES |
| Mon | 19:30 | 145.130 | Boyer Valley ARC |
| Mon | 21:00 | 146.940 | AARC News & Info |
| Mon | 21:00 | 145.290 | Mills Cty, IA |
| Tue | 19:00 | 147.360 | QCWA |
| Tue | 20:00 | 144.250 | 2m SSB Net |
| Wed | 19:00 | 146.670 | Pioneer ARC |
| Wed | 20:00 | 145.310 | Ashland ARC |
| Wed | 21:00 | 146.820 | Pott. Cty, IA ARES |
| Thu | 19:00 | 28.200 | 10m CW Net |
| Thu | 20:00 | 147.360 | HDXA |
| Thu | 20:30 | 443.450 | Plattsmouth ARC |
| Fri | 02:00z | 434/431.25 | ATV Net |
| Sat | 12:00 | 146.820 | Swap Net |
| Sat | 21:00 | 50.300 | LCS SSB Net |
| Sun | 08:00 | 3.901 | Swap Net |
| Sun | 09:00 | 3.896 | 3900 Club |
| Sun | 19:00 | 28.125 | Slow Speed CW |

*Note that all nets with start times listed in Zulu time are now listed on the correct day for that time. For example, the Sunday night 8:00pm CST DC Ares et listed as starting on Monday morning at 02:00z.



# Classifieds

For Sale: Yaesu 757GX All Mode HF Transceiver. Includes matching Yaesu 757 Antenna Tuner, 757 Switch able (110v/220v) Power Supply and Desk Mike. $500 or best offer. Greg Carlson, N7JOD. cell is 402-305-2009. My e-mail is rittersport@cox.net.

Classifieds are free to members. Send an email with the wording exactly as you want it printed to: w0nsa@arrl.net or mail your ad to: Ham Hum, P.O. Box 540304, Omaha, NE 68154. Ads must be received by the 3rd Friday of the month in order to be published in the next Ham Hum.

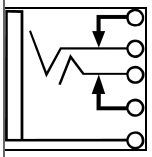
## YAHOO! Groups

What is YahooGroups?
YahooGroups is an email service that offers a convenient way to connect with others who share the same interests and ideas. From HF to APRS there's an amateur radio group that speaks to your interests!

Check out the addresses listed below for more information on some popular local area groups...

Point your browsers to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aksarbentalk
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hdxa
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dcares
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/midwestaprs
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ knsp

# FCC License (VE) Testing



Amateur radio license testing sessions are held every other month at the Red Cross at 2912 South 80th Avenue in Omaha.

For all examinations you must take your current FCC license and a copy (if upgrading), photo identification, any certificates of successful completion of previous examination and the testing fee of $12.00.

For more information contact Brian Zdan KMØY via email at bzdan@novia.net or call 553-2610.

Did you know that amateur radio exam question pools and Practice exams are available on the web? Check out www.arrl.org or www.qrz.com for more information and get that new license now!

# Advertise in the Ham Hum!

Your company or organization can advertise in the Ham Hum. With a monthly distribution to over 350 technology hungry consumers you ad is bound to "spark" some interest.

Photo ready ads must be received by the editor on the third Friday of the month to make the next month's issue. Advertisers will receive the Ham Hum while their ad is running.

Aggressively priced advertising rates are as follows:

| Number of Months → | 1 | 6 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Business Card (2"x3.5") | $10 | $40 | $60 |
| Dbl Bus. Card (2"x7") | $15 | $60 | $90 |
| Half Page Ad (4"x7") | $25 | $100 | $150 |

Contact the editor for more information

# September 2003

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 AARC Board Mtg | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 BVARC Mtg | 10 Lincoln ARC Mtg | 11 | 12 AARC General Mtg | 13 Fleaesta! |
| 14 | 15 SACMARC Mtg | 16 | 17 | 18 Bellevue ARC Mtg | 19 HDXA Mtg | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 QCWA Mtg SWIARC Mtg | 26 Pioneer ARC Mtg | 27 Plattsmouth ARC Mtg |
| 28 Ashland ARC Mtg | 29 | 30 AARC VE Test Session | | | | |

Ham Happenings

**Sept 2 —AARC Board Meeting, Red Cross 7:00pm**

**Sept 12 —AARC Club Meeting, Red Cross 7:30pm**

**Sept 13-15—ARRL September VHF QSO Party**

**Sept 20-21—ARRL 10 GHz and up Contest**

**Sept 30 —VE Testing Session, Red Cross**

# October 2003

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 AARC Board Mtg | 8 Lincoln ARC Mtg | 9 | 10 AARC General Mtg | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 BVARC Mtg | 15 | 16 Bellevue ARC Mtg | 17 HDXA Mtg | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 QCWA Mtg SWIARC Mtg | 24 Pioneer ARC Mtg | 25 Plattsmouth ARC Mtg |
| 26 Ashland ARC Mtg | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

Ham Happenings

**Oct 7 —AARC Board Meeting, Red Cross 7:00pm**

**Oct 10 —AARC Club Meeting, Red Cross 7:30pm**

**Oct 18-19—ARRL International EME Competition**

# Repeater Update

**CTCSS Requirement**

The KØUSA 146.940 MHz repeater now requires a CTCSS (PL) tone of 131.8 Hz to access the input frequency. Click Here more information about CTCSS . The repeater is also operating from the downtown location. The ID is slightly different, with an "E" added to the end for the CW ID to indicate it is the east location. When the west location is up and operating it will have a CW "W" added to its ID. The courtesy beeps are also slightly different. The system now is boasting and alternate input at Apple Hill and 156th and Maple with a voting system selecting the strongest signal. Keep up the good work WBØCMC and NØUP and all the other people who help with the repeater.

Often called PL (Motorola abbreviations for Private Line) QC (RCA abbreviation for "Quiet Channel") and CG (General Electric of "Channel Guard"), or sub-audible tone, CTCSS stands for Continuous Tone Codes Squelch System, and it is used to minimize co-channel interference. Contrary to popular belief, the requirement of a CSCSS tone to access a repeater does NOT mean it is closed.

Many repeaters require the use of CTCSS to access the repeater. The frequency that a user transmits to access a repeater is the Repeater CTCSS Encode Frequency, the frequency that a repeater transmits is the Repeater Decode Frequency. K0USA west location is currently transmitting a frequency of 131.8hz.. If your radio is set to the proper Decode Frequency, you will not hear any signals that do not also have that tone transmitted along. This helps eliminate "intermod" interference from opening the squelch on your radio. CTCSS does not alleviate RF interference. If two FM signals are on the same frequency at the same time, there will still be a heterodyne or beat note (unless one is much stronger than the other).

Requiring a tone on the input frequency will help eliminate the interference cause by band openings, powerful stations located on the fringe areas, and other forms of interference.

# Printed HAM HUM Request

Would you like to continue receiving the AARC monthly publication in printed form? Fill out the information below, and give it to a Board Member, Executive Officer, the Editor, or drop it into the mail to the PO Box address on the other side of this form.

I am unable to view the HAM HUM online and would like to request that a printed copy of the HAM HUM continue to be mailed to the address on the AARC club records. Include address updates below. One HAM HUM per household.

Name: _____ Call: _____

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City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

# The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club

Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League since its founding in 1945, the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club of Omaha, Nebraska is a general interest amateur radio club with over 300 “radio-active” members.

Our members are involved in virtually every aspect of amateur radio from electronic circuit design to worldwide communication via voice and Morse code, satellite and space station communications, meteor scatter, computer assisted digital modes, amateur television, and even severe storm spotting for the National Weather Service.

We make a special effort to provide public service communications support for events such as parades, charity fund raisers, emergency preparedness drills, and disaster relief operations.

The club offers amateur radio classes to the public for those who wish to obtain an amateur radio license or upgrade their license privileges.

For more information contact us via email at k0usa@qsl.net. If you have a scanner you can listen to the clubs main wide area repeater at 146.940 Megahertz.

WE’RE ON THE WEB
www.aksarbenarc.org

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