



# Ham Hum

February 10, 2023 Volume LXX, Issue 2

The January 2023 membership meeting was held in person and via Google Meet on Friday, January 13, 2023. There were thirty-four members in person and six online. The meeting was called to order at 19:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a member roll call.

## **Secretary's Report - Terry KEØOPB**

The club has received \$26.12 from Amazon Smile for the period July 1 - September 30.

## **Treasurer's Report - Julie NØWAV**

The club has combined funds of \$23,745.09.

## **Vice-President's Report - Adam KDØMMG**

1. The program this month is *Our KØUSA repeater* by John WBØCMC and Steve NØUP.
2. Next month Matt Andersen, our ARRL Section Leader, will be presenting at our meeting.

The monthly raffle continues! John, in tandem with Adam KDØMMG, will be doing the monthly raffle. Tickets are \$1 each, or six for \$5.

## **President's Report - John ABØZT**

In his new role as President, John stated that he will endeavor to keep meetings at around thirty minutes. He also stated that members should feel free to suggest program topics to any board member; that committee reports should be submitted to the board prior to their monthly meeting (the board meets on the Saturday before the membership meeting); and that Bill Snyder KDØFJR has agreed to serve as chair of the newly-reinvigorated Courtesy Committee. Members are asked to contact the board and Bill if they know of anyone who should get a card.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Education -**

Mike Gallagher WØLE has volunteered to act as education coordinator.

Pat Connell WØDJU has volunteered to start an Elmers group.

### **Field Day - Pat WØOJU**

Pat reported that he is planning on a bigger field day in 2023 at Boys Town, with Keith KEØAEP and Paige KBØZ Field Day Committee members.

### **Publications**

Discussion on HamHum saved for old business.

### **Special Events - Pat KØCTU No report**

### **Repeater - John WBØCMC**

John reported that he and Steve NØUP repaired the power output problem on the repeater. They also cleaned the contacts when they were onsite.

The Nebraska Repeater Coordinator is Steve NØUP, with John WBØCMC acting as Coordinator Emeritus.

### **Old Business**

1. The electronic or paper delivery of HamHums was discussed. It was noted that the club budgets \$1000 annually for printing and mailing expenses. It was decided that a survey will be posted asking for members to state how they would like to get the HamHum (online or on paper).
2. The spring picnic was discussed, with a *tentative* date of the afternoon of July 16th, and it would be at a different location with some interactive radio activities. Adam KDØMMG and Mary NØTRK have volunteered to be picnic coordinators for this year so please contact them if you have any suggestions.

## **New Business**

1. John presented past president Pat Connell a certificate of appreciation for his service.
2. The club recognized Tom Martin KØAM, a former club member and long-time OPD officer, as a silent key.
3. SWIARC will be holding their annual HamFest at McClelland IA on Saturday, March 4 from 08:00 - 12:00. A Yaesu FT5DR handie-talkie will be the grand prize, and you must be present to win.
4. The club is looking for someone to restart the VE program after the passing of Rae NØREA. Please contact the board if you are interested.
5. The club has two new member applications:
  - a. John Wilson KE8WHQ, a new Technician who works as a physician's assistant. A motion to accept him as a member was made by John WBØCMC and was seconded by Norm WAØJYD and was unanimously approved.

Matthew Meyer WØKXT, an Extra who works as an HVAC technician. A motion to accept him as a member was made by John WBØCMC and was seconded by Norm WAØJYD and was unanimously approved.

## **Announcements**

1. Membership dues payments are not available online at this time, please pay at a meeting.
2. Greg KCØVTO announced that the Douglas County ARES group is holding an organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 24, at 19:00 at the Red Cross. The program will be *An Intro to ARES* and anyone interested is invited.
3. SATERN will be hosting *Winter Field Day* on Saturday, January 28, from 14:00 - 17:00 at the Salvation Army EDS Center at 10629 Burt Circle. All are welcome to stop by, please contact Mary NØTRK if you have any questions.

Julie announced that committee budgets need to be turned in to her by February 1.

A motion to adjourn was made by John WBØCMC and was seconded by Norm WAØJYD. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

## Club Officers & Board Members

President	John E Fifer, Jr	ABØZT	president@aksarbenarc.org
Vice President	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	vicepresident@aksarbenarc.org
Secretary	Terry Begley	KEØOPB	secretary@aksarbenarc.org
Treasurer	Julie Leighton	NØWAV	treasurer@aksarbenarc.org
2023-2024 Director	Julie Leighton	NØWAV	board@aksarbenarc.org
2022-2023 Director	Dan Buchholz	NØPOT	board@aksarbenarc.org
2022-2023 Director	Terry Begley	KEØOPB	board@aksarbenarc.org
2022-2023 Director	Brian Pitchanau	WEØBEP	board@aksarbenarc.org

## Club Committees

Courtesy Committee	Bill Snyder	KDØFJR	courtesy@aksarbenarc.org
Education	Open	Open	education@aksarbenarc.org
Field Day	Pat Connell	WØOUJ	
Flea-Esta	Open		
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	membership@aksarbenarc.org
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	wa0zqg@hotmail.com
Public Relations	Jim Westcott	KAØKCV	pr@aksarbenarc.org
Prizes	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	prizes@aksarbenarc.org
Publications (Ham Hum)	Brian Pitchanau	WEØBEP	hamhum@aksarbenarc.org
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL	qslmanager@aksarbenarc.org
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph	KØCTU	community_service@aksarbenarc.org
Technical Assistance	Ed Edwards	KØIL	technical@aksarbenarc.org
Web Services	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	web_master@aksarbenarc.org

## Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Vice Chairman	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Club Call sign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	trustee@aksarbenarc.org
Member	Russ Hilton	ADØQH	repeater@aksarbenarc.org

## Other Contacts

ARRL Midwest Director	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	k0das@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Dir.	Dave Propper	K2DP	k0aiz@arrl.org
EC Douglas County	Greg Ervin	KCØVTO	
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN	
Volunteer Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	
NE Section Manager	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	ka0boj@arrl.org
VE Exams/ARRL Liaison	Open		testing@aksarbenarc.org

AARC Ham Hum Post Office Box 24551, Omaha, NE 68124-0551

## Area Nets (Updated 12/29/2022)

### Monday

- 7:00 PM 145.290 South-West Iowa ARES Glenwood, IA.
- 7:00 PM 146.940 Western Division HQ SATERN Net Omaha, NE.
- 8:00 PM 144.250 NE Missouri SWOT.
- 9:00 PM 146.940 AARC Chat Net. Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Omaha, NE.

### Tuesday

- 9:00 PM 145.310 Washington Co. ARES Washington Co, NE.
- 7:00 PM 147.435 Simplex Net
- 9:00 PM 146.820 Conspiracy Net

### Wednesday

- 7:00 PM 146.670 Dodge Co. ARES Dodge Co, NE.
- 7:30 PM 7.122 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.
- 8:00 PM 3.564 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.
- 8:00 PM 145.310 Saunders Co. ARES Saunders Co, NE.
- 8:30 PM 7.122 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.
- 9:00 PM 3.580.5 PSK Four State QRP Comfortable Net.
- 9:00 PM 146.820 Pottawattamie County ARES Council Bluffs, IA.

### Thursday

- 8:30 AM 7.122 CW Four State QRP 40M Morning Net.
- 7:30 PM 145.310- Lincoln/Omaha SATERN Net. Ashland, NE.
- 8:00 PM 28.350 SSB 10-Meter Net.
- 8:00 PM 147.360 Heartland DX Association.
- 9:00 PM 145.175 NE D-Star Net also on REF002C though internet.

### Saturday

- 12:00 PM 146.82 Swap Net Council Bluffs, IA.
- 8:30 PM 3.921.000 QCWA Chapter 20.

### Sunday

- 8:00 AM 3.902.500 Swap Net.
- 8:30 AM 3.897.500 3900 Club.
- 8:30 PM Locally IRLP and the Nebraska IRLP net is heard on:
  - 145.410 - 97.4 PL ABOVX Honey Creek
  - 444.800 + 97.4 PL ABOVX Honey Creek
  - 444.925 + 136.5 PL KOBVC Mondamin
  - 146.745 - 136.5 PL KOBVC Portsmouth
  - 223.580 (Simplex) 100 PL KOOQL North Omaha
- 2:00 PM 50.200 6 Meter Net
- 8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.
- 9:00 PM 146.940- Douglas Co. ARES net, KØUSA repeater.

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The following was submitted by John WBOCMC after the meeting on 13 Jan 2023:

I got to thinking after the meeting last night on 13 Jan 2023. There were some interesting things that have happened over the years. One was: the "link" receivers were originally on 462.something and needed to be moved to 441.something, a 21.4 MHz move, twice the IF of 10.7MHz. Crystals would be somewhat expensive. Why not use the image which should take only re-tweaking the input filter and RF front end. It worked. Jamming a strong signal into the antenna port I was able to re-tune the filter and RF amp down 21 MHz and found the sensitivity was slightly better than it was at 462. Transistors frequency/gain response does improve as frequency drops, in this case by 21 MHz. We probably picked up 3 dB or so sensitivity, Just enough to make a difference. We now had 4 receivers in the ham band that were on coordinate-able frequencies all in 441-442 area. I had to disable the AFC to properly tune them since going on the image changed the phase of the discriminator. I removed the cover from the discriminator and reversed the 4 diodes in it and re-activated the AFC and it worked properly and didn't affect the audio. It all took a little time to do but didn't cost the club anything. 4 free RX and already on frequency. The CTCSS cards were disabled and modified for keying tones used later for working with the voting system.

Another trick to save equipment costs was with the remote receivers. The one in Council Bluffs shares the antenna with the .82 RX. The antenna goes to a large Motorola cavity tuned to 146.88, half way between 22 and 34. That was a measured loss of 1.5dB, hardly significant. The output of the cavity goes through a 20 dB pre-amp which gives both RX's a sensitivity of about .08 microvolts. There is also a band splitter with a VHF and UHF port. The UHF comes from the link TX and uses the 3<sup>rd</sup> overtone of the 2M antenna. Most vertical antennas have a pretty good performance on the 3<sup>rd</sup> overtone. I think this one was about 1.5 VSWR. The vertical radiation pattern may not be exactly what one would expect but with the RX end @ 700 feet up and the TX on a high hill plus a 60 or so foot tower and a clear path between, no problem. I used the same thing for the channel 12 site near mead for the other remote RX. For both sites, the antennas were already there.

Also, On 2 Feb (Ground Hog Day) John and Steve cleaned all the Motorola contacts on the 94 repeater. Should be good for another few years.

## Becoming an Amateur Radio Operator and Upcoming Exams

If you are interested in becoming an Amateur Radio Operator you can reach out to [www.ARRL.ORG](http://www.ARRL.ORG). Our AARC club contact for information is Mike Gallagher WOLE at [mikejgallagher@msn.com](mailto:mikejgallagher@msn.com).

In 2023, exams will be held on 2/11, 5/13, 8/12, and 11/11 at CHI Health Midland Hospital in Papillion, NE at 1 p.m. Please note that walk-ins are allowed. Go to the hospital main west entrance 11111 South 84<sup>th</sup> street and follow the signs in the lobby. The examinations are conducted by the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club on behalf of the ARRL Volunteer Exam Coordinator.

For further information on exams, please contact Michael Turner W0WH at [W0WH@cox.net](mailto:W0WH@cox.net) or 402-291-2034.

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The Nebraska QSO Party has been set for April 15 th & 16th, 2023. 8am till 8pm CST on April 15 th and 8am till 5pm April 16th. Website is [www.nebraskaqsoparty.com](http://www.nebraskaqsoparty.com) All the rules and regulations for the event are found on the website along with all the forms.

73 Matthew N. Anderson - KAØBOJ Nebraska... Matt Anderson—KA0BO,  
Nebraska Section Manager  
Midwest Assistant Director - Nebraska

Website is [www.nebraskaqsoparty.com](http://www.nebraskaqsoparty.com)

The remote RX at CB got changed today so should sound better. The “cb rx.jpg” is what was installed and the other, “cb rx new.jpg” was what was taken out. Notice all the critter junk on top of it. It will eventually find its way back to my basement for a capacitor swap to fix the de-emphasis and remain as a spare or possible use later if there is a hole we want to fill. — John WBOCMC



Above, Back View



Left, Front View



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## **ARES Training Meeting**

DC ARES Members - The next training meeting for Spring severe weather deployment preparation is Tuesday evening at 7:00pm on February 21, 2023. We will be meeting at the Red Cross Building (2912 S 80th Avenue in Omaha), and concentrating on severe weather 2 meter communications. Please bring along with you to the meeting, your fully-charged handheld 2 meter radio. Important on-air communications principles will be reviewed, along with moving to breakout rooms with handhelds to simulate severe storm warning scenarios. The meeting will be offered online through Google Meets. Send an email to Terry Begley for the Google Meets Link. Terry's email is [tbegley@gmail.com](mailto:tbegley@gmail.com). Being on-site with your radio will provide you the best experience, since radios will be tuned to a simplex frequency, attempting to call from off-site will be difficult or impossible. More meeting information will be shared as a lead-up to February 21. Please plan to attend to practice your severe weather communications skills.

## Field Day 2023 Update

The AARC Field Day Planning is underway the newly formed committee held its first meeting in late January. Committee members so far consist of Keith McKinney KE0AEP, Jamie Hanway KF0FAP, Paige Hoffart KB0Z, and Stephen Ivaskevicius N0SOX and Pat Connell W0OJU.

We are looking for other volunteer committee members and we meet out at Keith McKinney's home on a Sunday afternoon. If you are interested contact Pat Connell W0OJU. We will announce our next meeting at the AARC February Club meeting.

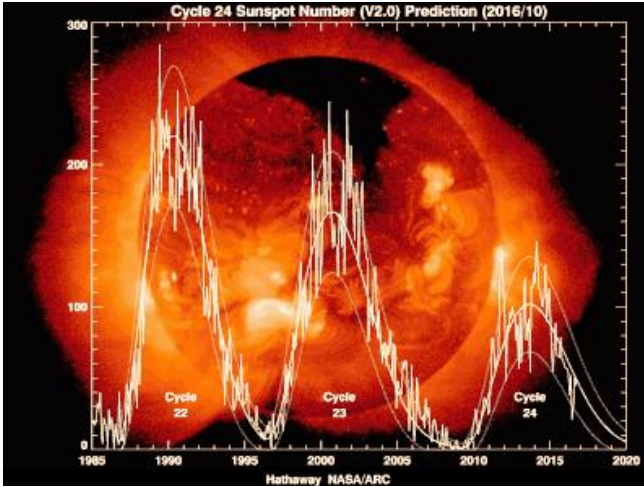
We are engaged in discussions with Boys Town for a new site with air-conditioning and better site for antennas. It looks very promising and site selection should be completed by the end of February. We are exploring going 3A with an additional GOTA station and the "free" VHF station. Plans are being considered to operate SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31, and FT8/FT4. We will have the opportunity to operate around the clock.

Antenna plans being studied include: HF Tribander on club Trailer, a second tower trailer provided by Paige Hoffart for 40 and 80 meter dipoles, 2 Wolf Coil vertical antennas, a 43 foot Vertical, and a 5 element 6 meter beams on a pushup mast. We are looking for other ideas and antenna loans for consideration.

We are waiting for the new 2023 FD rules as we want to maximize our points whenever possible. We will be looking for guest operators and how to stimulate interest in ham radio. – Pat Connell W0OJU Field Day Chair.

Field Day is ham radio's open house.

Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.



There are many factors that can affect our enjoyment of Ham Radio. Some annoyances may be only a few feet away, such as an electric lamp or computer causing RF interference in the shack. But when it comes to headaches for Ham Radio operators, especially HF enthusiasts, the biggest problem (literally) is 92.96 million miles away and is about as easy to negotiate with as your HOA's rules committee. Of course we're talking about the sun.

The presence of sunspots indicates solar activity which affects the ionosphere's ability to refract radio signals back to Earth. In the simplest terms, fewer sunspots means less solar activity, which leads to a heck of a lot of frustrated Hams.

Generally speaking, a dearth of solar activity makes working the bands from 14-28 MHz (20 through 10 meters) and 50 MHz (6 meters) a challenge. The amount of sunspots, and correlating solar activity, decreases or increases according to a predictable 11-year cycle.

The next cycle is expected to peak between 2023 and 2026.

# BRIAN RICHARD ZDAN

## KMØY - SK

**December 14, 1953 - January 21, 2023**

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that Brian Zdan, KMØY has become a silent key.

Brian was a member of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club for over 40 years and served both the club and

the amateur radio community in and around the Omaha Metro Area in many different capacities over the years.

His presence and assistance will be missed by everyone.

