

Omaha Marathon

Pat KØCTU

What's 26.2 miles long, has 4,000 people in it, and is being observed by 11 Amateur Radio operators? The Omaha Marathon, of course.

A few months ago our club was approached by the organizers for the September 23rd Omaha Marathon. They needed reliable communications along the course. There are many challenges with a huge event like this. I attended the planning meetings so that we could introduce the planners to our club and give them an idea of what we could do for them.

All along the route there were aid stations that fill cups with water and Gatorade and hand them to the runners as they pass by. The aid stations would also be watching for runners having difficulties. One of their most important communication needs was keeping the Aid Stations in touch with the medical tent at the Start/Finish area. We set up our net control area near the medical tent and placed our volunteers out at the aid stations. Being near the medical tent we would be able to let them know if they need to dispatch the medical van to a spot on the route. We also worked with the "Wear Yellow" team of bicycles that patrolled the route. The cyclists were watching the runners and communicating to their coordinator via text messages. Numerous times we worked with their team concerning various runners that looked like they may be having difficulties.

The 4000 runners all left the start line at 7 AM to run 10 kilometers, a half-marathon (13.1 miles), or a full marathon (26.2 miles). The weather was great for running. The day started cool and warmed up a little by the end of the event at around 1:30 PM.

The club repeater worked great. Most of our people used hand-held radios successfully with the repeater.

Thanks to the following volunteers: Mary NØTRK, Marvin AEØEG, Adam KDØMMG, Steve NØUP, Corby KØSKW, Mike KCØWQH, Bill KCØFJR, Jerry W9JD, Russ NØMNW, and Mark KØCBS.

We had a great time working with the Marathon and we hope to work with them again next year.

[Editor's Note: Photos available at <http://tinyurl.com/8mo2sgy>]

CROP Walk Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to help with the CROP Walk fund raiser on Sunday afternoon, October 14th. Proceeds go toward hunger relief, both in our area and world wide. Church World Services is the benefactor. There are typically 800 to 1000 walkers that participate. It will start at 1:00 PM and should run until 3:30 PM. Starts at the First Christian Church, 66th and Dodge and runs along some of the neighborhood streets north of the church. We place ourselves along the route at the water stops and at strategic intersections if we have enough people. We'll use the 146.94 repeater, and hand held radios should be fine anywhere along the route.

If you can help on Sunday, contact me at k0ctu@cox.net and I'll put you on the list.

Pat KØCTU

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

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Broadband over Amateur Radio



NØTRK and KDØMMG talk about BoAR

BoAR, also known as High-speed Multimedia (HSMM) mesh is a method of wideband digital network communications using ham radio frequencies. Though not a new concept, it's not familiar to many hams. It also requires some advanced technologies that aren't readily available with off-the-shelf products, so modifying existing hardware and software is a requirement. Because of this, there hasn't been much HSMM experimentation in the Omaha area. Until recently that is.

For the past few months, Mary NØTRK and Adam KDØMMG have been reading technical articles, gathering software, and modifying existing equipment to set up such a network. (You may have noticed some of NØTRK's recent ads in the Ham Hum and on-line wanting to buy Linksys routers.) After many tests, they got the system working reliably and so demonstrated it at the September AARC meeting.

(BoAR continued on page 11.)

NOTICE

The next AARC Board of Directors meeting will take place this month on Monday, October 22nd, instead of the usual last Tuesday of the month. Time and location are unchanged: 6:30 PM at Village Inn, 78th and Dodge. Future meeting dates to be determined. See the Club Calendar in the Ham Hum or the AARC web site for latest information.

October Meeting

The topic for this month's meeting is A BIG SURPRISE!
Be sure to check the AARC web site at <http://www.aksarbenarc.org> for spoilers.
Friday, October 12th, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring Streets, Omaha, NE.

HAM HUM is the official newsletter of the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc. in Omaha, Nebraska. It is printed monthly and is distributed to members of the club, local disaster officials, local electronics outlets, and editors of other ham radio newsletters.

Articles about activities of members are solicited. The subject matter must be of general interest to radio amateurs and be understandable to a significant portion of the membership. No payment will be made to contributors and submissions will be subject to the usual editorial review. Articles containing statements that could be construed as libel or slander will not be accepted. No guarantee can be made that an accepted article will be published by a certain date. Send your contributions to Ham Hum, P.O. Box 24551, Omaha, NE 68124-0551 or email hamhum@aksarbenarc.org. Please contact the editor for permission to reprint anything appearing in the Ham Hum.

Club Officers & Board Members

President	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Vice President	Scott Avery	KA4ZZQ	402-880-9246	scott@averysgk.com
2011-2012 Secretary	Bill True	WA9ASD	402-426-2813	williamtrue@aol.com
2011-2012 Treasurer	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	AEØEG@arrl.net
2012 Director	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	402-598-1521	akavan@gmail.com
2012 Director	Dave Rice	NØJSB	402-571-8915	davegr@netzero.net
Immediate Past President	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net

Club Committees

Courtesy Committee	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		
Education	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Field Day	Rob Buchholz	KCØOYT	402-964-9960	kc0oyt@arrl.net
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7774	wa0zqg@yahoo.com
Prizes	Rollie Miller	ABØNN	402-333-1606	ab0nn@arrl.net
Public Service/Emergency	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
Publications	Bill Wilkinson	KCØSVZ	402-397-8803	kc0svz@yahoo.com
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL		k0il@arrl.net
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph	KØCTU	402-492-9156	ppjoseph@cox.net
Web Services	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net

Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net
Vice Chairman	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Club Callsign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net

Other Contacts

ARRL Midwest Director	Clifford Ahrens	KØCA	573-221-8618	k0ca@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS		
EC Douglas County	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		
Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
NE Section Manager	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	402-421-0839	K0AIZ@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		

Address Change?

If you've changed your mailing address, or would prefer to receive the Ham Hum via email, please contact Mary NØTRK (Membership) or Bill KCØSVZ (Publications) with your new information.

AARC on the Web

Club Web Site: <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aksarbenarc>

Yahoo! Groups: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AKSARBENTalk/>

(BoAR continued from page 1.)

Mary started the presentation by covering a bit of the background of HSMM (the ARRL coined the term) and groups involved in the project. She also gave a high-level description of the network architecture, frequencies involved, and how FCC Parts 15 and 97 applied to it. She then discussed the Linksys WRT54G/GS/GL series of routers that are central to setting up the network—the versions that would work, power output, and operating range. She then handed over the Adam KDØMMG while she finished setting up the network for demonstrating.

Adam went into more details on the principles of mesh networks, including antennas, modifying the router firmware, and some of the things you can do with the system; such as remote control of ham radios, VOIP phones, and video—among others.

The demo phase of the presentation consisted of a system near the front of the room, another node at the back, and one outside in the parking lot connected to a small video camera—all connected wirelessly. Inside, Mary and Adam demonstrated keyboard, voice, and video communication between the two nodes inside the room. They then switched to the outside camera and we got to see Pat KØCTU walking about in the parking lot. Mary then demonstrated how the system could be connected to the Internet, which would be useful for email and other communications between a disaster crew, for example.

During the Q&A session that followed, a discussion came up about the future of HSMM: Mary has plans for using it on next year's Field Day—it could have come in handy last summer with everybody scattered over the grounds at Fitzgerald. Also, Adam mentioned that he'd planned on interfacing the system to a Raspberry Pi (a Linux computer selling for about \$25) and seeing what kind of neat things he could do with it.

Mary and Adam's presentation was highly interesting and covered a lot of ground in a short time. Much more was discussed than there's room for here. If you'd like to know more about mesh communications, talk to them and—for starters—check out the following web sites:

<http://www.arrl.org> (once there, search on HSMM)
<http://www.openhsmm.org>
<http://www.hsmm-mesh.org>
<http://www.raspberrypi.org>

Bill KCØSVZ

The Radio Amateur is...PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach. —Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)



Club Calendar

Oct 10	7:30 PM Lincoln Amateur Radio Club Meeting. 4647 Superior St, Lincoln, NE.
Oct 12	6:00 AM Market To Market Relay
Oct 12	7:00 PM AARC Club Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
Oct 13	5:30 AM Market to Market Relay. See the AARC web site for details.
Oct 13	9:00 AM Hamboree (Iowa State Convention). 903 Topaz Drive, Sergeant Bluff, IA.
Oct 13	11:00 AM Midwest Home Brewers & QRP Group, Bredeaux Pizza, Ashland, NE.
Oct 14	1:00 PM Crop Walk.
Oct 17	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Oct 18	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE
Oct 20	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Oct 22	6:30 PM AARC Board Meeting. Village Inn, 7837 Dodge St., Omaha, NE.
Oct 25	7:30 PM Southwest Iowa ARC Meeting. 705 N 16 th , Council Bluffs, IA.
Oct 26	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Nov 9	7:00 PM AARC Club Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
Nov 10	11:00 AM Midwest Home Brewers & QRP Group, Bredeaux Pizza, Ashland, NE.
Nov 10	1:00 PM BARC VE Session. Alegent Hospital, 11111 S. 84th St., Papillion, NE.
Nov 15	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE
Nov 17	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Nov 21	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Nov 22	7:30 PM Southwest Iowa ARC Meeting. 705 N 16 th , Council Bluffs, IA.
Nov 23	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Nov 27	6:30 PM AARC VE Session, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.

For more details and the latest updates, see the *Calendar* section of the AARC web site (<http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>).

Area Nets

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
7:00 PM 145.290 South-West Iowa ARES Glenwood, IA.	7:00 PM 147.360 QCWA Hams who have been hams for at least 25 years.	7:00 PM 146.670 Dodge Co. ARES Dodge Co, NE.
8:00 PM 144.250 NE Missouri SWOT.	8:00 PM 50.200 6m SSB Net.	8:00 PM 145.310 Saunders Co. ARES Saunders Co, NE.
9:00 PM 146.940 AARC Social Net. Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Omaha, NE.	9:00 PM 145.310 Washington Co. ARES Washington Co, NE.	9:00 PM 146.820 Pottawattamie County ARES Council Bluffs, IA.
Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.	12:00 PM 146.82 Swap Net Council Bluffs, IA.	8:00 AM 3.902.500 Swap Net.
8:00 PM 146.360 Heartland DX Association.	8:30 PM 3.921.000 QCWA Chapter 20.	8:30 AM 3.896.000 3900 Club.
		8:30 PM 443.925+ (103.5 tone) IRLP Net.
		9:00 PM 146.940- Douglas Co. ARES net, KØUSA repeater.

Please let us know of any updates or corrections to the above.

Club Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2012

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 26 attendees. Introductions by name and call.

Officers and Board members present included: Mary, NØTRK; Bill, WA9ASD; Marv, AEØEG; Adam, KDØMMG; Dave, NØJSB and John, WBØCMC.

Secretary's Report - A motion was made by Jim, KAØKCV, seconded by Pat, KØCTU, to accept the July club meeting minutes as published in *Ham Hum*. John, WBØCMC noted that there was an extra word "the" in the last sentence of New Business. With that correction the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Marv reported that the club has money and there were deposits of \$304.61 and payments of \$1,493.78 during the month bringing the balance in all of the accounts to \$21,205.68.

President's Report - Mary, NØTRK - Scott, KA4ZZQ has reported that he is no longer able to perform the duties of Vice President. The Board has decided that at this late point of the year we will not replace him.

Program Committee - The program for the meeting will be on Broadband over Amateur Radio by Adam, KDØMMG and Mary, NØTRK.

We are looking for program ideas for October, November, and January.

Public Service – ARES/SATERN/Community Events

- Community Events - Pat, KØCTU - The Omaha Marathon will be Sunday, September 23. There will be three distances; 10K, 1/2 marathon, and a full marathon, starting at TD Ameritrade Park. Volunteers are needed from 6 AM to 2 PM who have either an HT or a mobile rig.
- The Market to Market Run will be on October 13.
- The Crop Walk will be on October 14.
- SATERN - no report
- ARES - no report

Education Committee - Mary, NØTRK - We need to decide on the next set dates - whether they be 3 weekends or 8 weeks.

Membership Committee - no report

Publications/Web Services

- Ham Hum - Bill, KCØSVZ - It's out.
- Web Services - it's there

Repeater Committee - John, WBØCMC - It's working. Use the repeater.

QSL Committee/Technical Committee - no report

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 4.)

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 3.)

Courtesy Committee - A card was sent to the family of Ken Sanford, KBØDQL who passed away.

Trailer Committee - There was a work day August 25th. The roof is insulated and covered. Just the nose cone remains to be insulated.

Equipment Committee - The Kenwood TS-180S was sold at the Flea-Esta. Also, the huge lights were sold. The Kenwood TS-440SAT has been returned from repair at Burghardt and will be listed soon on the club web site. The new HTs for loan have arrived. We have the basics of the checkout agreement and it should be completed soon.

The club has a number of pieces of equipment for sale. There is a list on the table for those interested.

Thanks to Pat, Bill, Steve and Corby for spending the day working on the trailer after an equipment committee meeting.

Public Awareness - Area clubs have been contacted to suggest they contact their local scout troops to participate in Jamboree On The Air. The suggestions have been well received.

We are planning on participating in Jamboree On The Air in October at Wa-Con-Da camp during Camp-O-Ree weekend in Bellevue.

Flea Market - First of all, Pat thanked all of the volunteers for making the Flea-Esta a success.

With the building set for 38 tables we were able to sell 42 because some people sold out and left early. Late arrivals were then sold the vacant tables.

There are 4 cases of pop available for sale at \$3 each.

Final numbers will be available at the Board meeting.

Old Business - Mary has had a preliminary discussion with John of the Red Cross concerning work on their tower. There will be a formal proposal letter to him shortly.

New Business - none

Announcements - SATERN will be moving on Monday so the station will be moving on another day.

On September 22 there will be another Benson Flea Market

On September 22 at the Hilton there will be a Omaha Marathon Expo from 10 to 4.

The monthly Saturday night dinner will be on the 15th this month due to scheduling problems.

Door Prize Committee - Rollie, ABØNN - Rollie announced the prizes to be drawn for after the break, before the program.

At 7:43 PM a motion was made by Steve, NØUP, seconded by John, WBØCMC to end the meeting. Passed by unanimous vote.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

FLEA-ESTA THANKS

The AARC Flea Market on September 8th was a long, but successful day. It was a great event thanks to the efforts of many club members, as well as the vendors that reserved every table that we could find. One of them bought a third table and, when he sold enough to empty the third one, we sold it to someone else at the door. Then another vendor said he couldn't stay and someone bought the table that he vacated. So we actually sold more tables than we had available.

Pat KCØCTU

Contest Calendar

10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 10
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 10 & 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 11
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Oct 10
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2000Z, Oct 10
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 12
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z-0759Z, 1600Z-2359Z, Oct 13 & 0800Z-1559Z, Oct 14
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 13 to 0800Z, Oct 14
QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party	1200Z, Oct 13 to 2400Z, Oct 14
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 13 to 1200Z, Oct 14
EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 13
Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 13 to 0600Z, Oct 14 & 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 14
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 13 to 0500Z, Oct 14 & 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 14
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2359Z, Oct 14
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 14
UBA ON Contest, CW	0600Z-0900Z, Oct 14
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 15 to 2400Z, Oct 19
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 19
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 20 to 2400Z, Oct 21
Araucaria VHF Contest	0000Z, Oct 20 to 1600Z, Oct 21
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 20 to 2359Z, Oct 21
New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 20 to 0200Z, Oct 21
Iowa QSO Party	1400Z-2300Z, Oct 20
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 20 to 1500Z, Oct 21
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 20 to 1459Z, Oct 21
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Oct 20
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 21
UBA ON Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 21
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 21 to 0100Z, Oct 22
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 24
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 24 & 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 25
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2000Z, Oct 25
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 26
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 27 to 2400Z, Oct 28

November 2012

NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 2
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Nov 3 to 2359Z, Nov 4
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 3 to 1200Z, Nov 4
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 3 to 0300Z, Nov 5
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 4 and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 4
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Nov 4

Sources: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> & <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>

(Worked (almost) All States continued from page 7.)

At the end of his week he left his antenna and feedline in place in case some other operator would use the room.

His shuttle ride to the airport was quick since no repairs were necessary en-route. Similarly, his return flight departure was only delayed several hours to pass the hat. The pilot had to collect cash to purchase enough fuel to allow the plane to fly to the first airport that would accept a credit card for fuel payment.

When his flight landed in his home country he was happy to discover that his two lost bags never got on the original flight due to plane weight limits.

All in all the trip was a success because he worked all but one remaining state for completion of WAS. He worked his last state, Nebraska, three months later. Little did he know how this state would figure in his future.

Unfortunately, while the contacts came quickly the QSL cards came painfully slowly. His last state worked from Las Vegas was California. No cards came from them after all 6s contacted from Las Vegas claimed he was using a bootleg call since every one of them claimed to be UNIQUE. Similarly the Oregon stations refused to QSL until Anton signed a petition to stop eating salmon and donated to the salmon relief fund.

His greatest disappointment came when he finally had all the cards ready to send in. It was then that he discovered, upon reading rules, that all stations for credit must be worked from locations within 50 miles of each other; disallowing the 13 states he worked from Las Vegas. It took him seven more years to complete the award.

His plea to Nebraska stations since this trip has been - "Get on the air and work some DX - they'll thank you."

Bill WA9ASD

Want Ads

Free Magazines I have 2009 & 2010 CQ and QST magazines free for picking them up. I rarely go to club meetings. Call me at 402-690-7965 or 402-734-3316. Bill KEØXQ.

For Sale: OSJ - Model OSJ 146/440 Dual Band J-Pole New, bulk packaged Arrow Dual Band J-Pole antenna. All proceeds from the sale go back to the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club. Available for pickup at any AARC Club meeting. Price: \$35. Contact any AARC Officer at a Club meeting, or send email through the Club web site at <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/main/index.php/eswap/4-antennas>

For Sale: Kenwood TS-440 Station SSB, CW, AM, FM, and AFSK transceiver. 160 through 10 meters including the WARC bands with 100 watts final amplifier stage (40W AM). Also has Kenwood AT-440 internal automatic antenna tuner installed. Covers the HF ham bands from 80 through 10 meters. Also includes Kenwood PS-50 power supply, 13.8 VDC at 20 amps. A Kenwood SP-120 and a Kenwood MC-50 are also included. Price is \$450.00. Contact any AARC Officer at a Club meeting, or send email through the Club web site at <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/main/index.php/component/adsmanager/1-hf-radios/14-kenwood-ts-440-station/contact?Itemid=435> (alternately <http://tinyurl.com/95baec8>).

Saturday Night Coffee

On September 15, 2012, members of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club got together for coffee, food, and discussion at Perkins restaurant. A larger than usual crowd was present this time: Pat KØCTU, Dick KBØKJV, Shelly KCØKAY, Bill KCØSVZ, Randy KFØX, Andrew NØCALL, Mary NØTRK, Steve NØUP, Claudia K1AUD, Gregg WØAAI, and Mike W7MSL.

Randy KFØX (formerly NØOSD) is one of AARC's out-of-town members, but was in-town on September 15th and was able to make it to the meeting at Perkins. He serves as President of the Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.w0hf.com/>) in the Tuscon, Arizona area, so it was a natural that a major topic of discussion that evening concerned the way the two clubs operate. This included club policies, repeater systems in use, and Field Day, among others.

Other subjects discussed (sometimes simultaneously) were more of a general nature, such as D-Star, finding speakers for the regular meetings, plans for JOTA, BoAR (see page 1), CB radio, and EchoLink. There was even some non-ham related topics, such as Steve coaching his son's school football team, bird care, and dog racing. In sum, it was an entertaining evening with good food, good company, and lively talk.

The AARC Coffee is held at Perkins restaurant at the corner of 108th and L Streets in Omaha on the third Saturday of the month starting at 6 PM. Everyone is invited.

Bill KCØSVZ

September Door Prizes

At the September meeting, Door Prize Curator Rollie ABØNN had brought in eight items from the Door Prize Stockpile to give away. These included a Chicago Electric Power Tools six-amp reciprocating saw w/rotating handle, *The ARRL Repeater Directory 2012-2013*, a 5-piece plier set, a 3-piece locking plier set, and two subscriptions to *Make* magazine (affiliated with the same people who did the July presentation—see the August, 2012 *Ham Hum*). There was also the Brown Bag Prize and the dreaded Mr. Reeh Door Prize.

Pat KØCTU volunteered to draw the tickets. The two *Make* subscriptions went to Tom KCØRFJ and Dave NØJSB. (Adam KDØMMG provided them with the information to complete and submit the subscriptions.) Corby KØSKW won the Repeater Directory, while the locking pliers and 5-piece plier set went to Bill KCØSVZ and Elmer WBØTTB, respectively. Bill KDØFJR got the reciprocating saw. The Brown Bag Door Prize turned out to be a wire stripper and was awarded to Mitch WBØGBI. Steve NØUP was the lucky winner of the Mr. Reeh Door Prize—a vintage Telex single-ear headset.

Note that the proceeds for each month's tickets go for buying next month's prizes. Each month's tickets are kept and included in the Grand Prize(s) drawing in December. The more tickets you buy each month, the better your chances of winning at the end of the year.

Bill KCØSVZ

Tales of Anton Reeh

Worked (almost) All States

Bill WA9ASD

[Editor's Note: In this installment, WA9ASD describes Anton Reeh's DX-pedition to Las Vegas and what he discovered there. (Anton holds many call signs and contributes door prizes to the monthly AARC meetings.)]

Many years ago, when Anton was just starting his business, he decided with great expectations and thin wallet he would treat himself to some operating from another location.

The very first DX-pedition that Anton Reeh embarked upon was slightly misguided from the onset. Anton reasoned that since it was so hard to work all those DX stations from his home country, why not go to them? He had been working on Worked All States and was particularly troubled by the shortage of stations he could work in the seventh and tenth call sign districts.

Why not position his station right in the area he was trying to work? He reasoned that with his rare callsign, which he could use due to reciprocal licensing agreements, local stations, in near-by states, would be eager to work him.

After seeing many ads for low-cost air fares to Las Vegas he selected the Tranni-Coastal Airways and Animal Shelter (pets welcome) \$169 one-way flight to Las Vegas with the promise that return flights were equally reasonable, provided repair parts for the plane could be located and not too expensive prior to the return flight's scheduled departure time. When booking his flight he asked the ticket agent if the airline was a fly-by-night outfit. The agent emphatically assured him it definitely was not as most of the plane's exterior lights were burned out so the flights were daytime only.

For housing he selected the Downtowner Motel on Fremont Street in Las Vegas which promised a free airport shuttle to the motel. The ad also said best rates in 'Vegas with free* Continental Breakfast with entertainment.

So, on departure day he hauled 3 heavy suitcases full of equipment and a few clothes to the local airport and his adventure began.

After boarding the plane he was assured by the flight attendant that the flights would be easy as only a pig, several chickens and a few unrecognizable reptiles were traveling with them, some in cages. The flights were always easier when there were no snakes or rats on board.

After the 3 day flight from Kazakhstan to Las Vegas, with stops at 11 regional airports and changing planes seven times he arrived to discover that only two of his three suitcases had been lost en-route. Fortunately the suitcase he arrived with contained all of his clothes and a Heathkit HW-8. It was only all his other equipment that was in the other 2 suitcases and, through an interpreter, he was promised that they would be delivered to his motel, if they were found.

Buoyed with new anticipation of his first "in the field" operating experience he made his way to the gravel parking lot on the edge of the airport grounds where his shuttle bus to the motel was supposed to pick him up. He was told they used the gravel lot because the oil leaks from the shuttle left stains on the paved lots at the airport.

(Worked (almost) All States *continued on next page.*)

(Worked (almost) All States *continued from previous page.*)

After a quick 2 hour trip to the motel, with only one stop for repairs, Anton settled in his room late the first evening of his stay in America to ponder all the stations he would work as soon as he figured out how to get the parts for a decent antenna. He was certain that he could find a way to support the antenna, even from the one-story roof above his room.

The next morning he arose early to partake of his Free* Continental Breakfast and find antenna parts. Actually, the free* part was explained in very fine print at the bottom of the ad where it pointed out that what is offered is a free shuttle to the Continental Motel and Car Wash where you can buy your breakfast and watch six illegal immigrants hand wash a car while two others "detailed" the interior while they looked for valuables to steal. The excitement mounts as the car wash nears completion and the two guys haven't got all the valuables out of the car.

After breakfast, while he waited for the return shuttle, which is the same 1961 VW Micro-Bus that picked him up at the airport (runs every two hours on the half hour), he realized that after picking up passengers at 11 motels he actually ended up on the other side of the street 1/2 block from the Downtowner Motel - Best Hourly Rates, where he started. Fortunately the walk down the block was quicker than the time he would have had to wait for the VW bus to come by and pick him up.

Once back in his room he was able to strip the overly long power cord from a floor lamp and fashion a 15 meter dipole. This he supported from the iron lattice work outside the front of his room with the curious rolled-up long thin ballons in small foil packets he found in the parking lot. He then appropriated the 300-ohm twinlead from the rabbit ears on top of the TV set in his room for a feed line. He reasoned that with the low power of the HW-8 and the lack of an antenna tuner or SWR bridge he would just declare the antenna a good match for the rig.

His only remaining shortages were a key, headphones and, oh, yes, a source of 12 V dc. His earbuds were pressed into service for headphones even though they were low impedance and loaded down the audio stage terribly. He figured he could just use some more lampcord to make his straight key. The power problem was solved when he discovered a rusty old '56 Plymouth up on blocks behind the motel. The battery made a good spark when he shorted it so it was pressed into service.

By mid-afternoon he was on the air and made a contact with Novice class licensee right in Las Vegas for his second contact with a Nevada station. As he worked into the early evening he noticed that the loud soundtrack from the XXX rated movie on the TV in next room pretty much drowned out the frequent gunshots from outside that faintly resembled static crashes. When the band died at about 9 PM he had worked 2 new states and felt he was well on his way to success.

The remainder of his week of operating from Las Vegas was pretty routine with only 1 daytime police raid lasting 3 hours that cut into his operating time. One of the surprises was the QSO with a New Mexico operator with a strong latino accent who refused to believe that Anton's operation from Las Vegas was not really a promotional event for a Chevy car club.

With 15 meters being closed at night Anton found that the weekly \$200 rate for the room was well worth it in entertainment value due to colorful activities of his fellow lodgers.

(Worked (almost) All States *continued on page 8.*)