

AARC at the Omaha Safety Expo

Bill True WA9ASD

Tomas did a nice job of setting up our table for the 2014 Safety Expo at Westroads on April 26. We had a VHF/UHF rig with Arrow antenna at one end and a large TV/Monitor at the other continuously playing a ham radio video. We also had a bright red highway emergency light flashing out SOS in CW and a MFJ keyer that saw a little use. Our club banner hung across the front of the table (we need to work on some supports for that) and a row of brochures from the ARRL. We also had our club handout available.

The handouts and the number taken by visitors included:

- Connect to Wireless Excitement with Ham Radio* (2)
- Amateur Radio... Serving Your Community* (about 10)
- Imagine... "Hello"* (8)
- 22 Things You Can Do With Amateur Radio* (13)
- When All Else Fails* (13)
- We Do That!...with Amateur Radio* (10)
- Aksarben Amateur Radio Club brochure (about 25)
- The DIY Magic of Amateur Radio* (3—all we had available)

We also had a copy of Part 97.1 of the *Communications Act of 1934* listing the Purpose of Amateur Radio on the table. We should perhaps have a small poster for that.

Most of the handouts had a club sticker on them with our address and web site on them. We need to make sure in the future that all handouts have the stickers.

Tomas also had a sign-up sheet for people who wanted to be contacted for more information. I believe six people signed up.

During most of the day the following club members were there: Tomas NW7US and his son Robert, Bill WA9ASD, Russ NØMNV, Marvin AEØEG, Adam KDØMMG, and Mitch WBØGBI. Mary NØTRK and Pat KØCTU stopped by briefly; plus Jim KAØKCV came by several times as he was occupied with the Blue Knights.

Also, the young lady representing the Red Cross, whose booth was behind us, has been a General Class ham since the middle 90s. Two tables down from us was the U. S. Coast Guard table, which was manned by Life Club Member Jim Miller, KGØHQ, along with another fellow. Also, the OMMRS booth—located two tables down and behind us—had a few ham radio brochures off to one side.

Regardless of our remote location, I think we contacted and interested a number of people. This is definitely an event we should attend every year. Thanks to all who helped make this a success.



Tomas NW7US, Marvin AEØEG, and Russ NØMNV man the booth while Jim KAØKCV makes a contact. (Photo: Adam KDØMMG)

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

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Call For Ideas



In order to get a better idea of what activities AARC should get involved in, the club officers created a ten-question member survey followed up by discussion during the April meeting.

The survey was sent to members with the April *Ham Hum* and covered topics such as what the member liked doing with ham radio:

operating, interacting with other hams in person, and related activities. Other questions dealt with the club itself: likes, dislikes, and suggestions for improvement.

As mentioned in the survey, the members who completed and returned the survey will receive a gift for their efforts: an up-to-date AARC ID/Badge similar to what you may have seen some of the older members wearing. Details are still being worked out. Also, the results of the survey will be announced later; the information is still being tallied.

The meeting itself began with the club officers asking for feedback on various areas of endeavor—changes in current club activities and what new ones could be added. Some of the suggestions included contesting, setting up a radio room that hams can access for various activities, using a video camera and large monitor during club presentations to zoom in on small items.

Also discussed was the possibility of setting up special interest groups, such as a SIG for repairing equipment—parts sources, troubleshooting techniques, test equipment, etc. This segued into kit building, helping people if they have problems with kits or repairs, helping new hams, and techniques to get them on the air.

Nothing definite was settled upon, but this is still in the early stages. Look for updates in future meetings after the survey results have been studied and more feedback comes in. As he concluded the meeting, Adam KDØMMG stated that if you have any ideas, be sure to contact him.

Bill KCØSVZ



May Meeting: Digital Communications



For the upcoming meeting, the topic will be *HF Digital Modes - Discussion and Demonstration* by Tomas Hood, NW7US. It promises to be interesting. Be there.

Friday, May 9th, 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	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	402-598-1521	akavan@gmail.com
Vice President	Mitch Saure	WBØGBI	402-455-6205	skyking195@aol.com
2014 Secretary	Bill True	WA9ASD	402-426-2813	williamtrue@aol.com
2014 Treasurer	Dave Rice	NØJSB	402-571-8915	davegr@netzero.net
2014-2016 Director	Russ Rosenquist	NØMNW		n0mnw@yahoo.com
2014-2016 Director	Barb Westcott	KCØHLB	402-510-0308	barbwestcott@cox.net
Immediate Past President	Tomas Hood	NW7US	402-915-1771	nw7us@nw7us.us

Club Committees

Courtesy Committee	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	402-690-7965	ke0xq@cox.net
Education	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Field Day	Tomas Hood	NW7US	402-915-1771	nw7us@nw7us.us
Flea-esta	Chris Rice		402-571-8915	davegr@netzero.net
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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

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ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS	319-393-8022	k0das@arrl.org
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	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	402-580-5515	ka0boj@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ	402-690-7965	ke0xq@cox.net

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/>

(Want Ads continued from page 14.)

For Sale: Tower, Rotor, and Beam Recently removed and in great condition is a two section tower that appears to be a US Tower TX-438 or equivalent. This is a self supporting, 38' retractable tower. The raising mechanism is also included. As well as the winch to raise the tower. It includes a Mosley 10-15-20 meter beam that appears to be the Model CL-36 or equivalent. Plus there is Ham IV rotor and High Gain controller box. Everything is down and—if you hurry—still loaded on a trailer. Local delivery can be arranged. No coax or rotor cable, but it's still a bargain and priced right! Price: \$600.00. Contact any AARC officer at the next meeting, or send an email through the AARC web page: <http://tinyurl.com/k7xz8zr>

Saturday Night Coffee

The discussion was mostly about old radios during the early part of the April get-together at Perkins. Pat KØCTU, Corby KØSKW, Bill KCØSVZ, Caleb NØCALL, Mary NØTRK, Steve NØUP, and Bill WA9ASD were present. Topics included the Nebraska QSO Party (Pat operated as KØUSA), Motorola radios and speakers, putting together a station based on the Kenwood TS-570, and the Heathkit Twoer. This last one caused me some confusion—when WA9ASD said "Twoer" I kept hearing "tour." Twoer is the common name for the HW-30 two meter AM transceiver. Sigh. It's been too many decades since I've been on the service bench... From there, the discussion moved on to mesh communications, Flea-esta, Field Day, and the AARC writeup in Wikipedia (<http://tinyurl.com/pb1syjp>).

Of course, subjects other than ham radio were discussed: hypersonic ping pong balls, boiler explosions, the collapse of the McCormick Place in 1976, DOGTV, and spotting hawks, geese, and turkey vultures—to name a few.

In sum, good food and interesting conversation made for an entertaining evening. Feel free to drop by next time.

The AARC Coffee get-together 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

Did you hear about the two antennas that got married?



Well, the wedding was terrible... but the reception was great!

de Dave NØJSB

Want Ads

For Sale: Vintage ARRL Books The following six books are being sold by AARC. Contact any club officer at the next meeting, or send an email through the AARC web page (pictures available there, too): <http://tinyurl.com/bajwo5e>

- *The Radio Amateur's VHF Manual*. 1972. 352 Pages, softbound. Used. This vintage book provides a lot of information on VHF bands up to 440 MHz. This publication provides a lot of useful information. Price: \$2.00.
- *Understanding Amateur Radio*. 1971. Used. This item has over 290 pages with fully legible and clear pictures, schematics, and interesting information about ham radio. Item obviously shows some wear, but in good overall condition. Price: \$2.00.
- *The Radio Amateur's Handbook*. 1977. Softbound. Nice clean and well treated handbook. In good shape and all there. Spine and binding are good. See pictures on the AARC web page (URL below). Very Clean inside. Crease on the corner of the back cover. All Offers Considered. Price: \$10.00.
- *Specialized Communications Techniques for the Radio Amateur*. 1978. 208 pages. This book deals with developing areas of ham radio communications such as television, slow scan TV, fax, radioteletype, space communications, and advanced techniques such as time-division multiplexing. Lots of great info in this book. It is in great condition. Price: \$2.00.
- *A Course in Radio Fundamentals*. 1972. Fifth edition. Used. The book consists of 183 pages of instructional material for those interested in the field of radio. The book is in excellent overall condition. The covers do have some general wear, but the interior is in beautiful shape. The binding is nice and tight. Price: \$2.00.
- *Single Sideband for the Radio Amateur*. 1970. This softbound 246 page book is in excellent condition. It might be an older book but still has lots of good information on what has become a mainstay of amateur radio communication modes. Price: \$2.00.

For Sale: Bencher RJ-1 Key The RJ-1 has a black textured base and chrome components. It feature oil-impregnated bronze bearing pivot points to impart friction-free pivoting and wobble free vertical tracking. Stainless steel locking screws allow individual adjustment for arm height, tension and contact spacing. The heavy metal base has anti-skid rubber feet for real staying power. The key is used, but looks like new, even has the original box and instructions. HRO price is \$139....asking \$75, but all offers considered. Contact any AARC officer at the next meeting, or send an email through the AARC web page: <http://tinyurl.com/kr5sxc6>

For Sale: HK-3 by Ham Key This model was introduced in 1974 by Ham Key Company, It resembled the Brown Brothers model ST-A. Nice attractive key as a shack decoration or to put on the air. Price: \$30.00. Contact any AARC officer at the next meeting, or send an email through the AARC web page: <http://tinyurl.com/kuevyd1>

(Want Ads continued on page 15.)



Veep Speaks

Our program for May will be on Digital Communications by our Past President Tomas, NW7US. He will show us how to get started with digital.

On May 7 through May 13 you will be able to work the ARRL's W1AW/Ø operating from selected stations in Nebraska. The bands are usually 20 meters and 40 meters and sometimes 75 meters. You can check

<http://dxsummit.fi/> to see if they are on the air and on which frequency. Or just cruise the bands and look for them. W1AW/7 will be operating from Utah as well during those days. If you contact these stations, you can sign up on <http://www.arrl.org/> to automatically get QSL cards from any W1AW portable station you contact during this ARRL Centennial year through the QSL Bureau. Normally you can not get any US ham QSL cards through the Bureau, only DX QSL cards. The ARRL is making an exception for just this year. You do have to be signed up with the WØ QSL Bureau to get cards though.

You do have envelopes and stamps on file at the WØ Bureau don't you? If you have any QSO's with a DX (Foreign ham station) on High Frequency or 6 meters, the foreign ham will often send a QSL card to you through the bureau system. If you do not have envelopes and stamps on file at the bureau the cards for you will be thrown away!

It's easy to get signed up at the WØ Bureau. Check out <http://zeroburo.org/>, print out the order supplies PDF, mail that form with a check for \$6.00, and they will set aside six envelopes with forever stamps on them for you, and 8 extra-ounce stamps (\$21) if you have a heavy envelope with a lot of cards. They will save your QSL cards and send them to you once a quarter. Last quarter, I received an envelope in the mail with 18 QSL cards from all over the world. It's kind of like Christmas for hams when an envelope comes in the mail! The "buro", as it is called by hams on CW, for our area handles up to 15,000 cards per quarter—all done by volunteer hams in Missouri.

You can send cards back to the DX stations by using the Outgoing QSL Bureau run by the ARRL. You fill out a bunch of cards you want to send to DX stations, put them in an envelope and send them to the Outgoing Bureau. They will send your cards for free to bureaus in foreign countries which will send them to the appropriate ham. See the details on the ARRL site. It beats mailing individual QSL cards to different countries, which can cost \$1.50 or so in postage for each card in an envelope. The downside is that it can take months to get a card you want through the "buro" system.

If you have any questions be sure to ask me.

Mitch WBØGBI, Vice President AARC

You may be a ham radio operator if...you have intentionally confused non-hams by telling them that the only things you talk about on the air are pork products.

Club Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2014

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by the President, Adam. KDØMMG, by saying the Pledge of Allegiance followed with introductions by name and call. There were 32 attendees.

Officers and Board members present included: Adam, KDØMMG; Mitch, WBØGBI; Dave, NØJSB; Bill, WA9ASD; Barb, KCØHLB; Russ, NØMNW, and Tomas, NW7US.

Secretary's Report - Bill, WA9ASD - The minutes of the March meeting were published in *Ham Hum*. A motion was made by Tomas, NW7US, seconded by CAM, W7CAM to accept the March club meeting minutes as published in *Ham Hum*. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Dave, NØJS - In the month of February there were deposits of dues for \$100, \$227 for the sale of the SB104 at Lincoln, \$160 for the sale of the Harvey-Wells R9A and T90, \$5 for the sale of a cookbook in Lincoln, and \$12 for refreshments. Payments consisted of \$41.53 for the case for the antenna analyzer, \$80 for the Post Office box rental, \$57.64 for shipping the Harvey-Wells equipment, \$80.69 for *Ham Hum* printing expenses, and a \$3 bank fee. This leaves the balance of all the club accounts at \$22,363.15.

President's Report - Adam, KDØMMG - Tonight we're going to talk about what kinds of fun activities the club can provide.

Vice President's Report - Mitch, WBØGBI - Tonight's program will be presented by the President and the Board members about what we can do as a club. Next month's program will be by Tomas, NW7US, on Digital Modes.

Public Service

- ARES - Steve, NØUP - There are no ARES activities planned for the next month. There will be a Major Accident Readiness Exercise on the Saturday morning of Field Day.
- SATERN - Jim Westcott, KAØKCV - The 18th Annual Public Safety Expo will be held Saturday April 26 at the Westroads.
- OMMRS - Mary, NØTRK - The next training to be held will be at Methodist Hospital on *An Introduction to OMMRS* and on logging and message handling.
- Community Events - Pat, KØCTU - The next event will be the State Track Meet on May 23 and 24. There is no information on assisting with local marathons.

Education Committee - Mary, NØTRK - Adam reported that there will be a once-a-week Technician license class in the evenings for about two and one-half hours starting soon. Anyone interested in helping with the class should contact him.

Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK - People are paying their dues.

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

Club Calendar

May 9	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
May 10	11:00 AM HBQRP, Bredeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.
May 10	1:00 PM BARC VE Session, 11111 S. 84 th St. Bellevue, IA.
May 14	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
May 15	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
May 17	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
May 21	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
May 22	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
May 22	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16 th , Council Bluffs, IA.
May 23	State Track Meet (thru May 24).
May 27	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, NE.
May 27	6:30 PM AARC VE Session, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St, Omaha NE.
May 31	8:30 AM HARA Hamfest. Lexington, NE (http://www.qs1.net/hara/)
Jun 11	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
Jun 13	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 st & Spring St, Omaha, NE.
Jun 14	HBQRP. No meeting planned due to OzarkCon 2014.
Jun 18	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Jun 19	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
Jun 21	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Jun 24	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge Streets, Omaha, NE.
Jun 26	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Jun 26	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16 th , Council Bluffs, IA.
Jun 28	Field Day
Jun 29	Field Day
Jul 12	9:00 AM PARC Flea Market, St. Charles Parish, 8 th & Locust St., North Bend, NE.
Aug 22	Joplin Hamfest (through Aug. 23). Joplin, Missouri.
Sep 6	Flea-esta. Sarpy County Fairgrounds, Springfield, NE.
Sep 27	3900 Club Hamboree. Firefighters Hall, 2108 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.

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



Just In Case You Can't Find It ...

Dean Gibson, AE7Q, has a ham license generator available for printing on his site. Just enter your call sign and print!

<http://www.ae7q.com/misc/Generate.php>

de Denny KØLGI

April Door Prizes

Alas, Door Prize Dispenser Rollie ABØNN could not make it to the April meeting. Woe.

All was not lost, however, as Bill WA9ASD had in his possession the monthly Brown Bag prize. Since there couldn't be a drawing (Rollie had all the materials), it was decided to

award the prize to the club's newest member, Richard KDØWTW. Cautiously opening the brown bag (in case it contained something dangerous), he discovered that the Brown Bag prize for April contained...(drum roll)...brown bags. Fifty of them.

Bill KCØSVZ

Area Nets

Monday

7:00 PM 145.290 South-West Iowa ARES Glenwood, IA.

8:00 PM 144.250 NE Missouri SWOT.

9:00 PM 146.940 AARC Chat Net. Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Omaha, NE.

Tuesday

7:00 PM 147.360 QCWA Net, Chapter 210 (seasonal, October through March).

8:00 PM 50.200 6m SSB Net.

9:00 PM 145.310 Washington Co. ARES Washington Co, NE.

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 10-Meter Net.

8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.

8:00 PM 146.360 Heartland DX Association.

9:00 PM 28.305 10-Meter Net.

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 3.896.000 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.

You may be a ham radio operator if...you have tapped out "CQ" or "HI" on the car horn in Morse Code to another ham.

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 4.)

Publications/Web Services

- *Ham Hum* - Bill, KCØSVZ - *Ham Hum* is out.
- Web Site - Mary, NØTRK - It's up.

Repeater Committee - John, WBØCMC - S'workin.

Field Day - Tomas, NW7US - At the next club meeting there will be big announcements. There will be a boom truck at the site for antennas. There will be lots of publicity.

QSL and Technical Committee - Eddy, KØIL - no report.

Courtesy Committee - Bill, KEØXQ - No news.

Trailer/Equipment Committee - Mary, NØTRK - We will be working on the N6KVA trailer in May and the goal is to have it ready for Field Day.

The original carrying case purchased for the club antenna analyzer required removing the knobs when placing it in the case or removing it. Also, the front panel pushbuttons could not be operated with the analyzer in the case. An industrial strength, yellow heavy duty plastic case, suitable for dropping from an airplane without a parachute has been purchased. It was wheeled into the meeting room for all to view in awe.

Public Awareness - Tomas, NW7US, will be organizing the club's indoor table at the Public Safety Expo at the Westroads on April 26. There will be HF, VHF, and UHF stations set up. Set up will begin at 9 AM with the Expo running from 10 AM to 3 PM. Talk-in will be on 146.52 MHz. Volunteers are needed and bring your HTs to talk and anyone wishing to participate should contact Tomas.

Flea-Esta - Chris Rice - The Flea-Esta will be held at the Sarpy County Fairgrounds on September 6 from 8 AM until noon. D & L Antennas will be there. We have one door prize. We need lots of volunteers.

Old Business - Kevin, KAØVNY, reported on the Red Cross tower grounding project. The feedlines appear to be ok but the Poly-Phasers are dead. The tower was grounded last fall. We may be able to fix the B & W antenna without actually climbing the tower with some help from the Bennington Fire Department and their equipment. The ham antennas are all tri-band.

New Business - We have Richard Giblilisco, KDØWTW, in attendance tonight who submitted a membership application. He holds a General Class license and is a member of the ARRL. Bill, WA9ASD, made a motion, seconded by Jim, KAØKCV, to accept his application for membership. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements - Fred, KBØLF, from Chapter 025 in Lincoln of the QCWA announced that the Nebraska QSO Party will start on Saturday at 7 AM and continue until Sunday at noon. All Nebraska hams are urged to participate. Fred also announced that in the fall there will be a 'rare county' event for Nebraska to help county hunters. More details to follow.

(Meeting Minutes continued on page 6.)

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 5.)

Announcements (continued) - Pat, KØCTU, talked about recently participating in state QSO parties as some fun things to do on weekends.

The Bellevue ARC will be holding their flea market on Saturday April 12 from 9 AM until 2 PM at the American Legion Post at 230 Lincoln Street in Papillion.

Adam announced that some club members will be going to the home of Robert Hartung, WBØFZZ, SK on Saturday at noon to help remove his tower and antennas. Anyone who would like to help out is welcome.

Coffee and cookie are available in the kitchen. Please help yourself and donate to offset the cost of this.

There is no door prize drawing tonight as Rollie, ABØNN, is not here.

Please make your donations for any area repeater to Dave, NØJSB. The club will make sure your donation gets to the proper repeater operator.

At 7:46 PM a motion was made by John, WBØCMC, seconded by Steve, NØUP, to end the meeting. Passed unanimously.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

AARC Equipment Loaner Program

Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club members who are in good standing and possessing an active FCC issued US Amateur Radio License may borrow one of two Icom HTs. Each radio is a basic two meter transceiver with an NiMH battery and charger. It is perfect for when you need to borrow a rig to help with that community service event, or if you are just itching to get on the air as you shop for your new radio.

Other equipment includes an ARRL *Introduction to Morse Code* CD set and (in the near future) an MFJ-259B antenna analyzer. A policy for the antenna analyzer is still being set—see the AARC web page at <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/main/> for its status.

You can check out a radio for one month at any Club meeting and return it at the next. Alternately, you can contact the equipment committee at equipment-committee@aksarbenarc.org. For more details, see the AARC web page listed above.

de AARC Equipment Committee

Want to Use KØUSA 146.940 for Community Service Events?

The KØUSA repeater is an open system and is available for any licensed ham radio operator to use. We welcome other clubs and organizations to use it for providing communications support for nonprofit activities. To avoid scheduling conflicts, the Club asks that you obtain permission from the AARC Repeater Committee *at least 72* hours in advance. To submit your request, please click the *KØUSA Use Request Form* link on the AARC web site: <http://tinyurl.com/msodyvh>

Contest Calendar

May 2014

ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 6
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, May 7 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 8
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 9
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, May 10
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 10 to 1200Z, May 11
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 10 to 2400Z, May 11
HPC World Wide DX Contest	1200Z, May 10 to 1159Z, May 11
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 10 to 1159Z, May 11
Portuguese Navy Day Contest	1500Z, May 10 to 1500Z, May 11
Nevada Mustang Roundup	1700Z, May 10 to 1700Z, May 11
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 10
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 10 to 0300Z, May 11
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 14
Slobozhansky Sprint Contest	1800Z-1959Z, May 16 (SSB) and 2000Z-2159Z, May 16 (CW)
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, Digital	0800Z-2359Z, May 17
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 17 to 1200Z, May 18
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 17 to 1200Z, May 18
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 22
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, May 22
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 23
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 24 to 2400Z, May 25
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 24 to 0200Z, May 25
SARL Digital Contest	1300Z-1600Z, May 25
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 25 to 0300Z, May 26
QRP Minimal Art Session	1600Z-2200Z, May 29
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 30

June 2014

ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 3
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, Jun 5 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Jun 5 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 5 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jun 5 (Dig)
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 6
10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest	0001Z, Jun 7 to 2359Z, Jun 8
VK Shires Contest	0600Z, Jun 7 to 0600Z, Jun 8
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, 0630Z-0659Z, Jun 7 and 0700Z-0729Z, 0730Z-0800Z, Jun 7
SEANET Contest	1200Z, Jun 7 to 1200Z, Jun 8
Alabama QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 7 to 0400Z, Jun 8

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

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The next AARC Board Meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2014, 6:30 PM at the Village Inn on 78th and Dodge Streets. Unless noted otherwise, Board meetings take place at that time and location on the fourth Tuesday of the month. For any changes to this schedule, check for an announcement at the next club meeting, or on the AARC web page at <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>.

FLEA MARKET

May 31, 2014

Setup at 7 AM, Open - 8:30AM to 3:00PM

AT

The Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles

Intersection of I-80 and US HWY 283

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Reserve Your Table Now and SAVE!

Tables - \$5 (before May 15, 2014)

\$10 at the Door (Includes 1 Admission)

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Contact: Vern Killion, WSUYF

vkillion@gmail.com, Tel - 308/785-3036

Confirm Test Registrations before May 24!

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HEARTLAND MUSEUM TOUR

FREE COFFE AND TEA

TALK-IN: 147.135+

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REGISTRATION FORM (Make checks payable to H.A.R.A.)

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March Haiti Trip

John Gebuhr, WBØCMC

[Editor's Note: This is the latest update on John's multi-year project to help upgrade the TV and FM stations belonging to Pastor Revenel Benoit's Lutheran Church in Gonaïves, Haiti. For previous articles in this series, see the May 2011, August 2012, and April 2013 issues of the Ham Hum. (Photos courtesy of WBØCMC and J. Francis.)]

We left Omaha a bit after 6AM on the 26th. The "we" is myself and Joe Francis, who is a professional tower climber. The trip to the Miami International Airport through Dallas was uneventful and on time. On board the flight to Port-au-Prince the captain informed us that one of the GPS systems was in-op and a tech was coming to fix it. It wasn't fixable so they put us on another plane at the other end of the terminal. We finally got off about four hours late and into port around 8:30 instead of the scheduled 4:20. Our driver was patiently waiting for us; and at that time of night the trip to Gonaïves only took a bit over two hours—most likely a record.

The next morning we went over to the church to go through the things I had sent in my last shipment. Some we took to the mountain, the rest stayed at the church.



Joe Francis working on the feed lines.

Once on the mountain Joe got right to it and changed out one of the jumpers on the antenna that we knew was damaged. Then he started to seal up all the connectors and joints on it. After that was done, it was time to test the antenna. The new transmitter didn't

like it so we put the old one on and it showed a serious problem with reflected power. Joe felt one of the two lines going to the antenna and it was hot. He broke the line open and a couple of quarts of water ran out. The second line was nearly as bad. What had happened was that last February (2013) there wasn't enough time to seal up all the connectors and the sealant wasn't much good anyway. Rain had seeped in. We reconnected the lines and retested. It was now a really good antenna. Joe broke the lines apart again to let them dry out as much as possible overnight.

On Friday, Joe had a few minor adjustments to make to a couple of the elements and seal them up. We also broke open the connections outside the building to get more air through and dry out as much as possible.

(March Haiti Trip continued on page 8.)



Joe Francis working on the beacon.

This antenna is actually two on one mast. One is an east-west array and the other a north-south, giving an omni-directional pattern; hence, the two lines. Everything got reconnected before we left that evening. We put the new transmitter back on and it ran really well the rest of the evening. There is a mini-studio on the mountain with a couple of VCRs and DVD players. The microwave link from the church still wasn't working.

Saturday, we were not able

to get to the mountain due to vehicle problems. On Sunday, Joe started to paint the tower with a white primer coat. He also changed the bulb in the top beacon.

He only got the top 2/3 done before he got rained off. Being on a tower during a rain event, no matter how slight is not smart or safe—and besides, the paint won't stick.

The antenna is now in really good shape and should last for years. The painting needs to be finished but there is a guy that Joe has trained to safely climb towers who is also a painter and can finish the job. The bottom third needs the white primer put on and there are four gallons of aviation orange for the final coat.

On Tuesday we prepped the new microwave for the studio-to-transmitter link and installed it. There is still not enough of a signal up to the mountain to be useful. It is probably a section of waveguide that isn't in too good a shape—or the path or dish aiming has gotten off a bit. There wasn't time to do anything about that. It will have to wait for another trip.

When we got to the mountain we discovered that most of the tools had been stolen. There was only one guy with the key and responsibility for the site. Revenel went to his house to ask about it and found a speaker and DVD player that were also missing. He went through the legal process for Haiti and the guy will have about two weeks to return everything or go to jail. We had an air tight case. I'm going to try and find a good set of tools to replace what was stolen and ship it with all the DVC Pro VCRs and other equipment in my basement that I've gotten from WOWT and KMTV.



Closeup of kink on tower before removal.

I'm also looking for a good hammer drill with a 3/8 or 1/2 inch chuck, a claw hammer, 3/4 inch conduit bender, and a 12 inch crescent wrench, all of which were missing.

On a lighter note, Joe took some video with his cell phone and it's viewable on Facebook under Joe Francis. It's pretty good stuff. The thumbnail there shows him at the top by the beacon as you can see in the top picture on page 8.

On Wednesday morning (2nd) we left for the airport in Port. Revenel had just put in a rebuilt engine in the vehicle three weeks prior. Tires good, water jugs in back, should be a good trip, eh. Just out of Pont Sondie steam started coming out from under the hood. We stopped to top off the radiator. After pouring in about ten gallons it became rather obvious that the "new" engine had blown a head gasket and wasn't going to make it to Port, another 60 Miles or so.

Revenel flagged down a UN vehicle that was going to Port but they weren't allowed to take riders. He did flag an SUV who said he would take us to the airport for \$50 US. His vehicle had problems too but after a couple of stops to tinker he got it going and the rest of the trip was OK. We got there about 20 minutes prior to departure but the airline wouldn't book us. They did put us on a later flight which meant we had to stay overnight in Miami. At least we'd be in the states again.



Joe Francis and Brooklyn John.

Once in Miami we tried to re-book and in talking to the agent told him about the blown gasket and he gave us a voucher for a hotel room for \$89. In bed around 1030 and up again at 330 for a 6AM flight, we didn't get much sleep.

We had about a three hour lay-over in Dallas. We got lunch and sat in the gate area chatting and Joe playing with his iPhone. Joe mentioned his next vacation might be to Seattle and we talked about that for a bit. Somehow the subject of geoducks came up. A clam native to Puget Sound and vicinity—Joe was fascinated by them and spent much of the wait using Wi-Fi and learning about them. They are a really strange creature. Google *geoduck* (pronounced "gooey duck") and be amazed while chuckling at the same time. It was an interesting way to kill an hour or two.

We're back safe and sound. It took me a couple of days to rest up from the long trip back. I'll be going again after the next shipment of equipment gets there.

Finally, the poles for the power line are installed and the wires should be within the next few weeks or so. We hope to have city power the next time I go down.



Brooklyn John pointing to the kink we cut out of the line we replaced.