

FLEA-ESTA

AARC Flea Market

8:00 AM to Noon, September 6, 2014

Breakfast and Lunch will be available on site at Sarpy County Fairgrounds, Springfield, Nebraska.

For more details as they develop, check the Fleas-Esta link at the AARC web site, <http://www.aksarbenarc.org/>

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>



But Officer, he was only shooting tennis balls!
(photos: NØTRK & KCØSVZ)

Ham Hum

Volume LXIV, Issue 7

July 2014

Transmitter Hunting



Bill WA9ASD (left) and John WBØCMC talk about RDF.

The topic for the June talk was radio direction finding (RDF) techniques as applied to a popular amateur pastime known by various names as transmitter hunting, T-hunting, rabbit hunting, and fox hunting. Whatever you want to call it, the activity is a good way to hone your skills as a radio amateur. Specifically, these are skills for locating sources of RF interference: such as a noisy electrical motor, a fluorescent light, or someone illegally transmitting on the amateur

bands—either accidentally or deliberately.

Giving the talk were Bill True, WA9ASD, and John Gebuhr, WBØCMC, both long-time practitioners of the sport. Bill started off with an overview of RDF and some of his experiences on both 10 meters and two. He described the types of antennas one can use, techniques to initially find the direction to the transmitter, and various methods on how to attenuate the signal when close to the transmitter—something that's necessary so that it doesn't swamp your receiver. Speaking in turns, John and Bill described some of these attenuators—all home brew.

(Transmitter Hunting continued on page 14.)

AARC Fox Hunt This Sunday

See the bottom of page 6 for more information.

FIELD DAY PICTURES INSIDE!



July Meeting: Dayton and Friedrichshafen



This month, Joe Eisenberg, KØNEB, will talk about the 2014 Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio, and its equivalent in Friedrichshafen, Germany. Joe's Dayton presentations have always been entertaining, so adding his German experiences should make it doubly so. This is one meeting you don't want to miss.

Friday, July 11th, 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	<i>(open)</i>			
Education	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	402-598-1521	akavan@gmail.com
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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Publications	Bill Wilkinson	KCØSVZ	402-397-8803	kc0svz@gmail.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	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/>

PIONEER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S 17TH Annual Flea Market

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2014

St. Charles Parish Ctr., 8th & Locust St., North Bend, NE.

VE TESTING 10:00 A.M.

Prize Drawings Every Half Hour DOOR PRIZE Drawing at Noon

FREE COFFEE & TEA ALL MORNING

ADMISSION: \$2.00 donation at the door Vendor Setup 7:30 A.M.

Food By DARLENE'S DINER (NØLOP) **OPEN 7:30 AM TO NOON**

TALK IN ON THE 146.67/07 KDØEFC REPEATER
EACH 8 FOOT SPACE IS \$5.00 IN ADVANCE OR \$7.00 AT THE DOOR
PLEASE SEND OR E-MAIL YOUR REGISTRATIONS TO:
RICH MEHAFFEY KBØARZ 230 W. 11th Street
NORTH BEND, NE. 68649-4011 PH. 402-652-3410
E-MAIL: 4randjme@futuretk.com

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NUMBER OF 8 FOOT SPACES REQUESTED _____

FULL NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

VENDORS ARE NOT CHARGED ADMISSION TO THE EVENT BUT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE DRAWINGS

Visit our web page: <http://www.k0jfn.com>

You may be a ham radio operator if...you have referred to your ham friends by their call sign suffixes instead of their real names.

(**Transmitter Hunting** *continued from page 1.*)

John showed us his home brew attenuator consisting of a modified paint can with a handle, a signal strength meter, a speaker, switches, and connectors for RF and headphones. He'd soldered the bottom of the can to the body to ensure that it was RF tight, then installed a 2m rig inside the unit with connections to the above-described components. He stated that when properly adjusted, he can get within 10 feet of the transmitter without pegging the needle.

John also discussed his home built 2m "robo-rabbit" transmitter operating at 146.475 MHz. It's output is adjustable from 1 to 10 watts and has a 5-position ID'er that generates distinctive tones in the receiver. Each time a hunter finds the transmitter, they switch the ID'er to the next sequence of tones to let the other people know that someone found it.

Bill demonstrated another home brew attenuator he called the Fox Box. He could connect it to an external 2-meter rig for attenuating the signal while still some distance away and—when nearer to the transmitter—would switch to an internal VHF receiver that he'd gotten from Radio Shack. The metal Fox Box contributed to some of the attenuation, plus he would detune it slightly from the transmitter frequency to further reduce sensitivity.

Near the end of the presentation, Pat KØCTU came up and demonstrated his "tape measure" antenna and how to use it. Following this was a discussion on the best techniques to use, plus some reminiscing about previous fox hunts—including stories about tracking down sources of RFI and people illegally transmitting. The talk ended with a Q&A session—in all, a very entertaining and educational evening.

Bill KCØSVZ

[Thanks to Russ NØMNW for taping this. It provided some information that I'd overlooked when taking notes. (Available on YouTube at <http://tinyurl.com/ov29stn>) --ww]



WBØCMC's Paint Can Attenuator



Veep Speaks

The program for our July meeting will be a report on the Dayton Hamvention and the Friedrichshafen ham convention in Germany by Joe Eisenberg, KØNEB.

Our biggest ham radio event of the year, Field Day, has come and went, very successfully I might add. We had stations set up for 10, 15, 20, and 40 meters SSB. There was a CW station that operated several bands, plus two digital stations also added many points. Our ham radio trailer was put to its first operating test and worked great. A great article on our operations was published in the World Herald, and we had several visitors from the County Sheriff's office, OPD, and a county official. Our thanks go out to all who participated and to those on the trailer committee who made this field day a success.

Be sure to check our Facebook page for a YouTube video of the Fox Hunting program that was presented at our June meeting by John, WBØCMC, and Bill, WA9ASD. This was well done and we thank them for an interesting presentation. Thanks to Russ, NØMNW for taking the time to videotape the meeting and making it available to us.

Mitch WBØGBI, Vice President AARC

Want Ads

For Sale: Vintage ARRL Books The following 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.

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>

Job Opening: Ham Hum Editor Position available in March, 2015. Do you have what it takes to edit one of the most prestigious amateur radio club newsletters in the Omaha area? You'll never know until you try. AARC will supply the materials that you need to print and distribute the issues. You must supply the ability to differentiate between the active and passive voice and when to use each. If interested, contact Bill KCØSVZ or any club officer at the next meeting.

Club Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2014

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by the President Adam. KDØMMG by saying the Pledge of Allegiance followed by introductions by name and call. There were 30 attendees.

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

Secretary's Report - Bill, WA9ASD - There were no minutes of the May meeting but a summary of the non-meeting was published in Ham Hum. No motion to accept the minutes was necessary.

Treasurer's Report - Dave, NØJSB - In the month of May there were deposits of \$39 for refreshments. Payments consisted of \$42.11 for refreshments, \$68.05 for generator repair, \$175.48 for name tags, \$210.08 for trailer refit supplies, \$31.24 for ARRL brochures shipping fees and a \$3 bank fee. This leaves the balance of all the club accounts at \$21,715.44.

President's Report - Adam, KDØMMG - The results of the membership survey are that the members are happy with the club, they want more hands-on activities and more eating.

Vice President's Report - Mitch, WBØGBI - Tonight's program will be presented by John, WBØCMC and Bill, WA9ASD on Fox Hunting. Next month's program will be by Joe, WAØWRI on The Dayton Hamvention and the largest European hamfest in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

Public Service

- OMMRS - Mary, NØTRK - There will be training in the morning from 10 to 12 and in the afternoon 1 to 3 at Methodist Hospital on *An Introduction to OMMRS* and on logging and message handling. Please attend one of the sessions.
- ARES - Steve, NØUP - There will probably be ARES activity in the next month.
- Community Events - Pat, KØCTU - There is nothing coming up. The State Track Meet had good weather. See *Ham Hum* for a summary of that event. Thanks to all of those who participated. Last weekend the Nebraska Omnium Bicycle Races were held. The organizers said they were glad the hams were there with communications and they were also glad they did not need them. The next event is the Crop Walk in October.

Education Committee - Adam, KDØMMG - There will be classes sometime.

Membership Committee - Mary, NØTRK - We have members. Mary presented the application for membership of Fred Eriksen, KBØLF. He holds an Extra Class license and is an ARRL member. A motion was made by Barb, KCØHLB, seconded by Marv, AEØEG to accept Fred as a member of the club. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome Fred!

(Club Meeting Minutes continued on page 5.)

(AARC Field Day 2014 continued from page 7.)

I left well before the storm that evening, but returned the next day before the end of the contest. Bill WA9ASD was there talking to Mary. I learned from them that a crew from the Omaha World-Herald had been there taking pictures and interviewing people. Also, members of the Douglas County Sheriff's Department and Omaha Police Department stopped by to see what we were doing and to learn about how radio amateurs worked with their departments during emergencies and with various other organizations in the community.

Finally 1 PM arrived: people shut down their transmitters, started packing up their equipment, and cleaning the place up. Last, but not least, Dave NØJSB and XYL Chris arrived to hook up the N6KVA trailer to their carryall and haul it way.

Final scores will be determined later, but on the whole, the weekend was considered a success.

Bill KCØSVZ

Club Calendar

Jul 9	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
Jul 11	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 st & Spring St., Omaha, NE.
Jul 12	9:00 AM PARC Flea Market, St. Charles Parish, 8 th & Locust St., North Bend, NE.
Jul 12	11:00 AM HBQRP, Bredeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.
Jul 16	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Jul 17	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St., Bellevue, NE.
Jul 19	8:00 AM Warrensburg Hamfest, Johnson Co. Fairgrounds, Warrensburg, MO.
Jul 19	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Jul 22	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge St., Omaha, NE.
Jul 24	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Jul 24	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16 th , Council Bluffs, IA.
Jul 29	6:30 PM AARC VE Session, Red Cross Building, 81st & Spring St., Omaha NE.
Aug 3	8:00 AM Cedar Valley ARC Hamfest, 5000 J St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA.
Aug 8	7:00 PM AARC Meeting. Red Cross Building, 81 st & Spring St., Omaha, NE.
Aug 9	11:00 AM HBQRP, Bredeaux Pizza, 1425 Silver St., Ashland, NE.
Aug 9	1:00 PM BARC VE Session, 11111 S. 84 th St., Papillion, NE.
Aug 13	7:30 PM LARC Meeting, 4647 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.
Aug 16	6:00 PM AARC Coffee. Perkins Restaurant, 108 th & L Streets, Omaha, NE.
Aug 17	9:00 AM ARRL Kansas State Convention, 2601 N. Ohio St., Salina, KS
Aug 20	7:00 PM Heartland Hams, 403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA.
Aug 21	7:30 PM BARC Meeting. Masonic Hall, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue, NE.
Aug 22	3:00 PM Joplin Hamfest, Convention & Trade Ctr, I-44 at Exit 8, Joplin, MO.
Aug 23	8:00 AM Joplin Hamfest, Convention & Trade Ctr, I-44 at Exit 8, Joplin, MO.
Aug 26	6:30 PM AARC Directors' Meeting. Village Inn, 78th & Dodge St, Omaha, NE.
Aug 28	7:30 PM PARC Meeting. 1900 E. Military Ave, Fremont, NE.
Aug 28	7:30 PM SWIARC Meeting. 705 N 16 th , Council Bluffs, IA.
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/>).

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.

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 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

(Club Meeting Minutes *continued from page 4.*)

Publications/Web Services

- *Ham Hum* - Bill, KCØSVZ - It's out there and he ordered another printer ink cartridge.
- Web Site - Mary, NØTRK - It's up and the club's Facebook page is up.

Repeater Committee - John, WBØCMC - It's working. The club accepts donations for any area repeater and forwards the money to the appropriate owner.

Field Day - Tomas, NW7US - Adam reported that we will have between 5 and 7 stations on the air. The club's Field Day location is at 156th Street and Maple near the site of the sinking of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald.

QSL and Technical Committee - Eddy, KØIL - no report

Courtesy Committee - open - Bill, KEØXQ has resigned this position due to health reasons. We need a volunteer to fill this position.

Trailer/Equipment Committee - Mary, NØTRK - It's coming along. There are pictures on the club web site. There are some really heavy duty extension cords that are surplus and available to club members.

Public Awareness - None, ham radio is a secret in Omaha.

Flea-Esta - Chris Rice - The grand prize will be an MFJ 259C Antenna Analyzer. Information about Flea-Esta is on the club's web site. We need volunteers for all areas. We have tables available for sellers.

Old Business - none

New Business - There are more name tags to come for those who filled-out survey forms. We can also order a name tag for you if you did not fill out a survey.

Announcements - Rollie, ABØNN announced that we have 6 regular door prizes tonight as well as 2 diamonds in the rough in the form of the Brown Bag Door Prize and the Mr. Reeh Door Prize. All tickets purchased are held and used in the drawing at the December meeting for the Grand Door Prize.

- John, WBØCMC announced that some hams have been getting calls from "Credit Card Services" for business.
- The Pioneer ARC will be holding their annual hamfest on July 12 starting at 9 AM in North Bend NE.
- Coffee and cookie are available in the kitchen thanks to Don, WBØVGB. Please help yourself and donate to offset the cost of this.

At 7:29 PM a motion was made by John, WBØCMC, seconded by Mary, NØTRK and others to end the meeting. Passed unanimously.

Bill WA9ASD, Secretary AARC

June Door Prizes

All-time holder of the Door Prize Ticket Salesman of the Year Award, Rollie ABØNN, had eight items to dispense in June: a utility cable wire stripper, a Pittsburgh Cross-Check Level, a Pittsburgh 8" Magnetic Torpedo Level (to make sure your 8" magnetic torpedoes are on the level), a Pittsburgh

QuikFind 12"x1/2" tape measure, a Pittsburgh 6" Composite Digital Caliper, a Pittsburgh 12-volt Alternator/Battery Tester, the Brown Bag Prize, and the much-loved Mr. Reeh Door Prize.

Justin NØCALL drew the tickets.

The first winner, Don WBØVGB, was the lucky recipient of the Cross-Check Level. Next, the tape measure went to Pat KØCTU, whilst Mary NØTRK got the cable stripper. Richard KDØWTW got the magnetic torpedo level. Dave NØJSB's number came up for the digital caliper. Mitch WBØGBI was awarded the alternator/battery tester.

Marvin AEØEG was the unfortunate winner of the Mr. Reeh Door Prize. After being cautioned that it may explode, he carefully unwrapped it only to discover what appeared to be a 50s-era clock radio in a bright red cabinet. A label on the front stating that it belonged to the Douglas County Sheriff. We hurriedly consulted with that font of ancient radio lore, Bill WA9ASD, who examined it and said this, "[It] is a Motorola Alert Monitor, Model L03CND1100A. A tube type VHF single channel, crystal controlled receiver. ... Operates on 115 vac with line cord." Also, he was able to deduce that it hadn't been operated in 20 years.

Last, but not least, Steve NØUP won the Brown Bag prize: a digital multimeter.

Note that the proceeds for each month's tickets go for buying next month's prizes. Also, all tickets are kept and included in the Grand Prize drawing in December.

Bill KCØSVZ

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The next AARC Board Meeting is scheduled for July 22, 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/>.

Aksarben ARC Transmitter Hunt Sunday 13 July 2014 at 3 PM 147.475 MHz

Starting Point: Memorial Park parking lot off of Underwood Avenue, north of Dodge Street at about 57th Street.

Contest Calendar

July 2014

ARS Spartan Sprint
CWops Mini-CWT Test

0100Z-0300Z, Jul 8
1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 9 and
0300Z-0400Z, Jul 10
0000Z-0400Z, Jul 12
1200Z, Jul 12 to 1200Z, Jul 13
1200Z, Jun 12 to 2400Z, Jun 13
2000Z-2159Z, Jul 13
1000Z-1400Z, Jul 14
1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 16 and
0300Z-0400Z, Jul 17

FISTS Summer Sprint
IARU HF World Championship
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush
WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone
CWops Mini-CWT Test

RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
DMC RTTY Contest
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
North American QSO Party, RTTY
CWops Mini-CWT Test

RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data
RSGB IOTA Contest
CWops Mini-CWT Test

1900Z-2030Z, Jul 16
0030Z-0230Z, Jul 17
1200Z, Jul 19 to 1200Z, Jul 20
1800Z, Jul 19 to 2100Z, Jul 20
1800Z, Jul 19 to 0559Z, Jul 20
1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 23 and
0300Z-0400Z, Jul 24
1900Z-2030Z, Jul 24
1200Z, Jul 26 to 1200Z, Jul 27
1300Z-1400Z, 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 30 and
0300Z-0400Z, Jul 31

August 2014

NCCC Sprint Ladder
TARA Grid Dip Shindig
10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB
European HF Championship
North American QSO Party, CW
ARRL August UHF Contest
RSGB RoPoCo CW
SARL HF Phone Contest
ARS Spartan Sprint
NCCC Sprint Ladder
WAE DX Contest, CW
Maryland-DC QSO Party
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
NCCC Sprint Ladder
SARTG WW RTTY Contest
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
North American QSO Party, SSB
ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY
NCCC Sprint Ladder
Hawaii QSO Party
Ohio QSO Party
NCCC Sprint Ladder
SCC RTTY Championship
YO DX HF Contest
SARL HF CW Contest

0230Z-0300Z, Aug 1
0000Z-2400Z, Aug 2
0001Z, Aug 2 to 2359Z, Aug 3
1200Z-2359Z, Aug 2
1800Z, Aug 2 to 0559Z, Aug 3
1800Z, Aug 2 to 1800Z, Aug 3
0700Z-0830Z, Aug 3
1300Z-1630Z, Aug 3
0100Z-0300Z, Aug 5
0230Z-0300Z, Aug 8
0000Z, Aug 9 to 2359Z, Aug 10
1600Z, Aug 9 to 2400Z, Aug 10
0030Z-0230Z, Aug 13
0230Z-0300Z, Aug 15
0000Z, Aug 16 to 1600Z, Aug 17
0600 local, Aug 16 to 2400 local, Aug 17
1800Z, Aug 16 to 0559Z, Aug 17
1800Z-2359Z, Aug 17
0230Z-0300Z, Aug 22
0400Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 25
1600Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 24
0230Z-0300Z, Aug 29
1200Z, Aug 30 to 1159Z, Aug 31
1200Z, Aug 30 to 1200Z, Aug 31
1400Z-1600Z, Aug 31

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

NEW HAMS ARE DIFFERENT

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This is going to be a bit of a ramble, but I need to get some thoughts down about new hams, and maybe get some feedback on these ideas from both new hams and guys that have been around for a while.

Recently, I visited the All Hands Active (AHA) makerspace here in Ann Arbor. Several of the "makers" that use this space have recently gotten their ham licenses—most of them in one of my one-day Tech classes. I was down there trying to get them interested in attending Field Day, and in particular, in operating the GOTA station.

There were four of us sitting around, talking about amateur radio, the projects they were working on, Field Day, and other stuff. In the past, they had also expressed an interest in doing something with WA2HOM, our station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. While it was a great discussion, it was apparent to me that it was going to be difficult to get them out for Field.

It dawned on me that these new radio amateurs were just not interested in the "old" amateur radio. Sitting in front of shortwave radios and exchanging fake signal reports with other guys sitting in front of shortwave radios is just not their idea of a good time. I think that if you take a step back and try to look at it through their eyes, you'll see where they're coming from.

What are they interested in? Well, one guy is having a blast playing around with RTL SDR dongles. He's also trying to figure out a way to rig up wireless link to light a light at bus stops around his house when a bus is approaching. Another is working on a Hinternet-type project. I helped him out a little bit last summer setting up a wireless node at his house.

This is perhaps one reason why there are so many more licensed radio amateurs these days, but yet there seems to be less activity on the HF bands these days. HF is just not where it's at for these new guys.

One consequence of this is that the old amateur radio clubs don't have much to offer the new guys. In fact, one of them told me that the one time that he attended the local club meeting, he got such a hostile response that he decided not to return.

I'm finding this all quite interesting. I do intend to pursue some kind of joint activities between the All Hands Active maker group and WA2HOM and see where that goes. They may not be interested in working DX on 20m, but they do seem to be interested in the IRLP node that we're in the process of installing there.

I'm not sure where this is all headed, but what I do know is that these folks have a lot of energy and creativity. If we can couple that with our knowledge and experience, then I think that we'll be a good fit for one another. It's going to take open minds all around, though.

I'm really interested in hearing from all of you about this. Have your clubs made contact with the "makers" in your area? Do any of them have ham radio licenses? Are there any interesting ham radio/maker projects going on in your area?

When he's not thinking about the future of amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands, teaching amateur radio classes, and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

AARC FIELD DAY 2014

I arrived late at the Douglas County Crime Lab at 156th and Maple (formerly the Thomas Fitzgerald Veterans Home) on Saturday morning. It was past 10 AM and station setup was well underway. It had rained the night before, but now the weather was clearing. As the day wore on, it would go from humid to sunny and hot, then storm again by nightfall.

Pat KØCTU was in the N6KVA Memorial Trailer in the west lot setting up the 20m SSB station. (The trailer was named for silent key Dick N6KVA, whose family had donated the money for it. The AARC Equipment Committee has been working hard to get it ready for this event.) Steve NØUP helped him, including setting up the triplexer for the 10-, 15-, and 20-meter stations.

Mary NØTRK also helped Pat, plus attempted to set up the mesh network. The purpose of the mesh was to enable each station to send the call logs directly to a central location at the site. Unfortunately there were technical difficulties, so we fell back on the time-honored sneakenet approach: walk to each station and download the data to a USB memory stick.

A few yards north of Pat was a tent that Brian KDØSVD was setting up for the 10 meter SSB station. He, his grandson Austin (who's studying for his license), Mitch WBØGBI, Russ NØMNW, and others would take turns operating it or logging contacts.

On the grounds a few hundred yards north of Brian, were the 15m and 20m digital stations being set up by Rob AI7Q, Corby KØSKW, and Thomas NØSTN. Rob was setting up the 20 meter station in a tent, while Corby would end up operating 15 meters in a nearby gazebo. Thomas helped string up the antennas, plus operate and log contacts.

Southeast of them, near the north side of the building, Marvin AEØEG had set up his 40m SSB station. His "hook-and-ladder" antenna was the more interesting one at the site (see page 8, center-right). Though somewhat unusual, it proved to be sturdier than the tower he used last year. Unlike the others, he elected to operate outside under a tree—which worked fine, but required a temporary retreat when a storm blew in.

Furthest for everybody else (but still within the ARRL guidelines) was the 20- and 15-meter CW stations that Fred KBØLF was setting up at the northeast area of the site. For 20-meters, he was using a vertical antenna with 16-element ground plane, and a dipole stretched across the road for 15m. His friend Doug NØCALL helped him set up. Fred set up the transmitters his car and, later on, Jim KGØRD joined him to help operate.

Meanwhile, back at the N6KVA Memorial Trailer, Club President Adam arrived and set up a 15m SSB station pup tent a few feet west of the trailer.

Last to arrive was Paul N6RBL, who set up a tent between Adam's and Brian's and would operate QRP FM on 6 and 2 meters.

During all this other people arrived. Among them were: Christina NØRIS, who helped Mary with obtaining food for the operators; also, Andy KEØATA, Darrel ADØEF and XYL Janice, and Gary KBØKYM stopped by to check the place out and—in some cases—stuck around to operate or to help with logging contacts.

(AARC Field Day 2014 continued on page 13.)

