



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](mailto:hamhum@aksarbenarc.org). Please contact the editor for permission to reprint anything appearing in the Ham Hum.

### Club Officers & Board Members

President (2009)	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	<a href="mailto:k0skw@k0skw.net">k0skw@k0skw.net</a>
Vice President (2009)	Dick Jones	N6KVA		<a href="mailto:n6kva@arrl.net">n6kva@arrl.net</a>
2008-2009 Board	Doug Rathman	NGØK	402-493-7369	<a href="mailto:dlrathman@cox.net">dlrathman@cox.net</a>
2008-2009 Board (Treasurer)	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	<a href="mailto:bzdan@novia.net">bzdan@novia.net</a>
2008-2009 Board	Dan Olsen	KD7GSW		
2008-2009 Board	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	<a href="mailto:kc0shz@yahoo.com">kc0shz@yahoo.com</a>
2009-2010 Board (Secretary)	Greg Carlson	N7JOD	402-305-2009	<a href="mailto:revgreg1@gmail.com">revgreg1@gmail.com</a>
2009-2010 Board	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	<a href="mailto:AE0EG@arrl.net">AE0EG@arrl.net</a>

### Standing Committee Chairs

Programs	Dick Jones	N6KVA		<a href="mailto:n6kva@arrl.net">n6kva@arrl.net</a>
Public Service/Emergency	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	<a href="mailto:kc0shz@yahoo.com">kc0shz@yahoo.com</a>
Education	Open Contact	Corby Krick	<a href="mailto:k0skw@k0skw.net">k0skw@k0skw.net</a>	for more information
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	<a href="mailto:n0trk@arrl.net">n0trk@arrl.net</a>
Publications	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	<a href="mailto:n0up@arrl.net">n0up@arrl.net</a>
Web Services	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	<a href="mailto:n0trk@arrl.net">n0trk@arrl.net</a>
Club Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7774	<a href="mailto:wa0zqg@yahoo.com">wa0zqg@yahoo.com</a>
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL		<a href="mailto:k0il@arrl.net">k0il@arrl.net</a>

### Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	<a href="mailto:wb0cmc@cox.net">wb0cmc@cox.net</a>
Vice Chairman	Darrel Swenson	KØAWB	402-690-0000	<a href="mailto:dswenson@wearne.net">dswenson@wearne.net</a>
Member	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	<a href="mailto:n0up@arrl.net">n0up@arrl.net</a>
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	<a href="mailto:n0trk@arrl.net">n0trk@arrl.net</a>
Club Callsign Trustee	Gerry Gross	WA6POZ	402-895-7367	<a href="mailto:wa6poz@arrl.net">wa6poz@arrl.net</a>

### Other Contacts

Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	<a href="mailto:bzdan@novia.net">bzdan@novia.net</a>
Special Events Coordinator	Greg Ervin	KCØVTO	402-445-0317	<a href="mailto:gervin1@cox.net">gervin1@cox.net</a>
ARRL Midwest Director	Bruce Frahm	KØBJ	785-462-7388	<a href="mailto:k0bj@arrl.org">k0bj@arrl.org</a>
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Clifford Ahrens	KØCA	573-221-8618	<a href="mailto:k0ca@arrl.org">k0ca@arrl.org</a>
NE Section Manager	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	402-421-0839	<a href="mailto:K0AIZ@arrl.org">K0AIZ@arrl.org</a>
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		<a href="mailto:ke0xq@cox.net">ke0xq@cox.net</a>
EC Douglas County	Darwin Piatt	W9HZC	402-991-0412	<a href="mailto:w9hzc@cox.net">w9hzc@cox.net</a>
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		

## Contest Calendar

### December, 2009

ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13
Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 12
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally	0000Z, Dec 12 to 0200Z, Dec 16
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 12 to 1559Z, Dec 13
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 13
CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	2100Z-2259Z, Dec 13
Russian 160-Meter Contest	2100Z-2300Z, Dec 18
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 19
Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party	001Z, Dec 19 to 2359Z, Jan 3
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 19 to 1400Z, Dec 20
ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 21
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 23
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 26
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26

### January, 2010

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 2 to 2400Z, Jan 3
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z, Jan 2 to 0700Z, Jan 3
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 9 to 2400Z, Jan 10
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 9
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 9 to 0600Z, Jan 10
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 10
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 10
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 10
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 10
LZ Open Contest	0000Z-0600Z, Jan 16
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 16 to 1200Z, Jan 17
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 16 to 0600Z, Jan 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 18
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 23 to 1200Z, Jan 24
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 29 to 2159Z, Jan 31
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 30 to 1800Z, Jan 31
SARL Youth Day Sprint	0700Z-1100Z, Jan 30
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 30 to 1300Z, Jan 31

Details check the following web site the week prior to the contest.

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

## What Should Every Ham Know How to Do?

By Dan, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list, there was recently a discussion about using modulated CW on 2m. One fellow pointed out that MFJ sold a unit that would do this. When I pointed out that this box cost \$100 and that they could do exactly the same thing with the \$18 PicoKeyer from HamGadgets.Com, I got some flack that the PicoKeyer was a kit, and that some people might not be able to build it.

I pointed out that a couple of years ago our club held a construction night, and that several people who had never soldered before successfully completed the kit. I also pointed out that even if the ham didn't have the proper tools, he or she could purchase a soldering iron, needle-nose pliers, and diagonal cutters, in addition to the kit, for less than \$100. That pretty much shut him up, but I got to thinking about what a ham should be able to do. This is the list I've come up with so far. This list does, of course, imply that a ham is physically capable of doing them. I would not expect hams that are physically disabled to be able to do everything on this list.

### What Every Ham Should Know How to Do

1. Solder. Every ham should know how to solder a connection, and by extension, build small kits and cables. Over the course of one's ham career, this skill will save you a ton of time and money.
2. Build a dipole antenna. The dipole is the simplest and most versatile antenna. Knowing how to build one and use one is an essential skill.
3. Check into a net. Net operation is one of the most basic operating skills.
4. Use a multimeter to measure voltage, current, and resistance and know what those measurements mean. This is the most basic skill used in troubleshooting, and at some point or another, you're going to have to troubleshoot something.

These are just the first four things that occur to me. What do you think every ham should know how to do?

Editors note, Dale, N0XAS, does a great job with his kits and components. The best part is he is LOCAL to Omaha. Please visit HamGadgets.com to see what he has.

### **Ham Hum Delivery**

If you would like the Ham Hum delivered electronically by email, please let N0UP [n0up@cox.net](mailto:n0up@cox.net) know. We will make sure your hum arrives when the mailed hum would arrive. This is an opt-out of receiving the Hum by mail only. If you do not request an emailed copy, you will continue to receive it by postal mail. Ed.

## **The Dark Sucker Theory**

For years, it has been believed that electric bulbs emit light, but recent information has proved otherwise. Electric bulbs don't emit light; they suck dark. Thus, we call these bulbs Dark Suckers.

The Dark Sucker Theory and the existence of dark suckers prove that dark has mass and is heavier than light.

First, the basis of the Dark Sucker Theory is that electric bulbs suck dark. For example, take the Dark Sucker in the room you are in. There is much less dark right next to it than there is elsewhere. The larger the Dark Sucker, the greater its capacity to suck dark. Dark Suckers in the parking lot have a much greater capacity to suck dark than the ones in this room.

So with all things, Dark Suckers don't last forever. Once they are full of dark, they can no longer suck. This is proven by the dark spot on a full Dark Sucker.

A candle is a primitive Dark Sucker. A new candle has a white wick. You can see that after the first use, the wick turns black, representing all the dark that has been sucked into it. If you put a pencil next to the wick of an operating candle, it will turn black. This is because it got in the way of the dark flowing into the candle. One of the disadvantages of these primitive Dark Suckers is their limited range.

There are also portable Dark Suckers. In these, the bulbs can't handle all the dark by themselves and must be aided by a Dark Storage Unit. When the Dark Storage Unit is full, it must be either emptied or replaced before the portable Dark Sucker can operate again.

Dark has mass. When dark goes into a Dark Sucker, friction from the mass generates heat. Thus, it is not wise to touch an operating Dark Sucker. Candles present a special problem as the mass must travel into a solid wick instead of through clear glass. This generates a great amount of heat and therefore it's not wise to touch an operating candle.

Also, dark is heavier than light. If you were to swim just below the surface of the lake, you would see a lot of light. If you were to slowly swim deeper and deeper, you would notice it getting darker and darker. When you get really deep, you would be in total darkness. This is because the heavier dark sinks to the bottom of the lake and the lighter light floats at the top. This why it is called light.

Finally, we must prove that dark is faster than light. If you were to stand in a lit room in front of a closed, dark closet, and slowly opened the closet door, you would see the light slowly enter the closet. But since dark is so fast, you would not be able to see the dark leave the closet.

Next time you see an electric bulb, remember that it is a Dark Sucker.

## Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2009

### Roll Call

[x] Corby–KØSKW      [x] Greg–WØAAI      [x] Jim – KC0SHZ  
[ ] Dan–KD7GSW      [x] Brian–KMØY      [x] Dick, - N6KVA  
[ ] Doug – NGØK      [x] Marvin–AEØEG      [x] Greg – N7JOD

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. The October meeting minutes were accepted as given.

President – Corby – KØSKW

Vice President/Programs – Dick – N6KVA

Steve, NØUP will present a program on ARPS.

Treasurer - Brian Zdan – KMØY

Checking	737.43	
MM Acct	5037.66	Int. .93
Repeater	1132.12	
Repeater CD	2258.20	
CD	16,081.80	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25304.73</b>	

### Unfinished Business

Hamfest- Brian, KMØY –

New officers for 2010. Corby is unsure of his plans after graduation and needs to leave his options open. Brian has been treasurer for four years. Two new board positions. (Jim, KC0SHZ volunteered to go for another term on the board.)

New VP. New publications person too. Will put an article in the Ham Hum.

Public Service – Jim – KCØSHZ

George, KB0ZZT has medical issues.

Publications – Steve – NØUP – Ham Hum for this month is out.

New Business – Corby – KØSKW

The December (holiday) meeting was discussed. Food and door prizes will be provided.

### Other

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Friday, December 11th at 6:30pm. The meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.

Greg Carlson, N7JOD, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary.

## Club Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2009

The meeting started at 7:30 pm with approximately 20 in attendance.

President's Report – Corby, KØSKW

Club minutes, printed in the Ham Hum. Approved as submitted.

Gave a plea for board volunteers. Pledge to the flag.

Vice President's Report and Programs – Dick, N6KVA

Steve, NØUP presented a program on ARPS.

Treasurer – Brian Zdan - KMØY

Checking	737.43	
MM Acct	5,037.66	Int. .93
Repeater	1,132.12	
Repeater CD	2,258.20	
CD	16,081.80	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25304.73</b>	

Repeater – John, WB0CMC – working well.

Public Service – Jim – KC0SHZ

- George Blair, KB0ZZT has personal medical concerns

Publications - Steve, NØUP – Ham Hum out.

Education – Mary NØTRK – Technician classes will be in January.

Membership – Mary, NØTRK –

Field Day, 2010 – Claudia – KC0SQX looking at possibilities. Suggestions and help welcome.

### Unfinished Business

Elections: Board or Officer positions, please let Corby know. President, VP, Treasurer and a couple board positions available. (Jim, KC0SHZ has agreed to return as board member for another two years, as has Dick, N6VKA). Publications person will be needed too.

### New Business

- Discussed ways we could help the SATERN family events. Felt worthy to do kid events. Jim will check with Salvation Army and get back to the club. All interested, contact Jim, KC0SHZ Other
- VE exam November 24th at 6:30pm at Red Cross
- QRP club tomorrow at 11am at the Bread Dough Pizza in Ashland
- Breakfast at 90<sup>th</sup> and Center at 8am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month
- Dinner on the third Saturday at 108<sup>th</sup> and L at Perkins
- Open house at SATERN station on November 21<sup>st</sup>. 3-7pm
- OOMRS training, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 7-9pm Josie Harper Center
- Sweepstakes at Douglas County EOC, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 3-7pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm for program and then coffee at Perkin's on 108<sup>th</sup> and L  
Greg Carlson, N7JOD, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary