

In next months issue, we will be sending the roster and membership cards, please look for them in the envelope with your Hum

Silent Keys

Cecil DeWitt W0RMB Jan 25, 2008

Scott E. Persson WB0QPP Feb 4, 2008

Classified Ads

Classified ads are free to members. Send an email with the wording exactly as you want it printed to hamhum@aksarbenarc.org or mail your ad to Ham Hum, P.O. Box 24551, Omaha NE 68124. Ads must be received by the third Friday of the Month to be included in the next Ham Hum.

Hy-gain High Tower antenna - AV18HT 10 thru 80 meters, 2 years old. "... the worlds best vertical antenna." (Hy-gain Ad.) Ad price \$949.95. Yours for \$600.00. Pick up only. Ralph W0SMY 402-556-5625

Kenwood TH-D7A 2m/70cm HT with built in TNC. Includes the radio, antenna, PB-38, PB-39 NiCad and PB-39 NiMH batteries, Pryme over the ear headset, Kenwood HMC-3 headset, Kenwood SMC-34 speaker mic, Kenwood Orange soft case, 2 preterminated data cables, Manual and Charger \$275.00 Steve N0UP 402-306-2972, after 5 please.

March 2008 AKSARBEN Club Meeting

Next meeting of the AARC will be March 14th at the Red Cross at 81st and Spring (Near 84th and Center) at 7:30.



Big changes are coming in television broadcasting. On February 17, 2009, all full power television stations are required to stop broadcasting in analog and continue broadcasting in digital only. This is known as the DTV transition.

To help answer your questions, this month's program will be on the Switch to DTV presented by Warren Behrens K0WMB Chief Engineer at KETV. Warren will be discussing the upcoming change from the current analog system to the new Digital System. Even if you don't own or plan to buy an HDTV or DTV, this will be impacting you! Bring a friend and share this information with everyone who has questions about the switch over.

All meetings of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club are open to the public. Refreshments will be served!

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

Volume LVIII, Issue 3

March 2008

Digital TV on Its Way

Prepare for the Switch to Get the Picture

Big changes are coming in television broadcasting. On February 17, 2009, all full power television stations are required to stop broadcasting in analog and continue broadcasting in digital only. This is known as the DTV transition.

Some consumers are asking why they need to switch. First, all-digital broadcasting will give needed communications channels to police, fire and emergency rescue personnel. It will also allow for new wireless services for consumers. In addition, since digital is more efficient than analog, it allows stations to broadcast several programs at the same time, instead of just one program with analog. This means broadcasters can offer consumers more choices. Digital also allows broadcasters to offer improved picture and sound quality, including high definition (HDTV) programming.

It is also important to know that the end of analog broadcasting does not mean that consumers must purchase new TVs, and you certainly don't need an HDTV to watch digital broadcasts. If you currently receive over-the-air programming on an analog television using a broadcast antenna, either through "rabbit ears" on your set or an antenna on your roof, you will only need a digital-to-analog converter box to continue watching broadcast television on that set after February 17, 2009. These boxes will cost approximately \$40 to \$70, and will be available in stores in beginning in early 2008.

To help defray the cost of digital-to-analog converter boxes, each U.S. household can request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of eligible boxes. This coupon program is being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). For more information on the coupon program visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-DTV-2009

If you watch over-the-air programming on a DTV (a TV with a built-in digital tuner), you will not need a digital-to-analog converter box. Also, an antenna you use to receive analog broadcasts should work for receiving digital broadcasts, both on a DTV and on an analog TV connected to a digital-to-analog converter box.

If you subscribe to a paid television service such as cable or satellite TV, you will not need a digital-to-analog converter box, and the TVs connected to your paid service will continue to receive local broadcast programming. However, consumers are advised to check with their providers to see if they will need any additional equipment in the future.

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 (2008)	Greg Babbitt	W0AAI	402-598-3030	w0aai@arrl.net
Vice President (2008)	Mary Joseph	N0TRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
2007-2008 Board	Rollie Miller	AB0NN	402-333-1606	ab0nn@arrl.net
2007-2008 Board	Corby Krick	K0SKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net
2007-2008 Board	Marvin Taylor	AE0EG	402-556-3668	AE0EG@arrl.net
2007-2008 Board	Steve Schmitz	N0UP	402-306-2972	n0up@cox.net
2008-2009 Board (Secretary)	Doug Rathman	NG0K	402-493-7369	dlrathman@cox.net
2008-2009 Board (Treasurer)	Brian Zdan	KM0Y	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
2008-2009 Board	Dan Olsen	KD7GSW		
2008-2009 Board	Jim Harper	KC0SHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com

Standing Committee Chairs

Programs	Mary Joseph	N0TRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Public Service/Emergency	Jim Harper	KC0SHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
Education	Open Contact	Greg Babbitt	w0aai@cox.net	for more information
Membership	Mary Joseph	N0TRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Publications	Steve Schmitz	N0UP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
Web Services	Mary Joseph	N0TRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Club Net	Rich Swig	WA0ZQG	712-256-7775	wa0zqg@yahoo.com
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	K0IL		eedwards@tconl.com

Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WB0CMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net
Vice Chairman	Darrel Swenson	K0AWB	402-690-0000	dswenson@wearne.net
Member	Steve Schmitz	N0UP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	N0TRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Club Callsign Trustee	Gerry Gross	WA6POZ	402-895-7367	wa6poz@arrl.net

Other Contacts

Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KM0Y	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
Special Events Coordinator	Greg Ervin	KC0VTO	402-445-0317	gervinl@cox.net
ARRL Midwest Director	Bruce Frahm	K0BJ	785-462-7388	k0bj@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Clifford Ahrens	K0CA	573-221-8618	k0ca@arrl.org
NE Section Manager	Matt Anderson	KA0BOJ	402-944-7488	ka0boj@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Dick Newsome	W0HXL	402-451-1202	w0hxl@cox.net
Section EC	Jim Hitz	KC0DVG	402-642-2040	kc0dvg@arrl.net
EC Douglas County	Darwin Piatt	W9HZC	402-991-0412	w9hzc@cox.net
EC Sarpy County	Ray McNally	N5SEZ		n5sez@arrl.net
EC Washington County	Don Morgan	KB0VIY	402-427-7111	kb0viy@yahoo.com
EC Pottawattamie County	Terry Lindsley	KS0L	712-325-0107	ks0l@arrl.net

Contest Calendar

March, 2008

10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 15
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 15 to 1200Z, Mar 16
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 17
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 20
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 29 to 2359Z, Mar 30

April, 2008

QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 5 to 1800Z, Apr 6
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 5 to 0500Z, Apr 6
	1800Z-2400Z, Apr 6
Radio Maritime Day	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1200Z, Apr 13
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 0359Z, Apr 13
	1400Z-2359Z, Apr 13
	0700Z-0759Z, Apr 19
	0800Z-0859Z, Apr 19
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19 to 0500Z, Apr 20
	1200Z-1800Z, Apr 20
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 26 to 0159Z, Apr 27
	1200Z-2159Z, Apr 27

For details check the following web site the week prior to the contest.
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

Upcoming Events

March 11	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Red Cross
March 14	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross
March 22	OMMRS Ham Radio Drill, Contact N0TRK for more info
March 24	Skywarn Training, Boystown National Headquarters Auditorium 7:00 PM, Omaha
March 25	HDXA & AARC VE Test Session, 6:30 PM, Red Cross
March 26	Ham Hum Content Deadline for April
March 29	Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium http://www.cpsws.unl.edu/
March 29	Skywarn Training, Hardin Hall 1:30 PM, Lincoln NE
April 1	Skywarn Training, Bellevue Fire Department Training Academy 7:00 PM
April 5	Douglas and Sarpy County Siren Test
April 8	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Red Cross
April 11	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross
April 13	MS Walk, Contact KC0OYT for more info
April 19	ARARAT Hambash, 8:00 to 2:00, Kansas City, MO
April 26	Nebraska QSO Party http://www.hdxa.net/neqso/
April 27	Des Moines Radio Amateur Association Hamfest
May 2 & 3	Hamboree 2008 and Midwest Division Convention
May 16 & 17	Nebraska State Track Meet, Contact K0CTU for more info

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2008

Roll Call

[x] Greg – WØAAI [x] Mary – NØTRK [x] Brian – KMØY [x] Doug – NGØK
[] Marvin – AEØEG [x] Jim – KCØSHZ [x] Steve - NØUP [x] Corby – KØSKW
[] Rollie – ABØNN [] Todd – KKØDX [] Dan – KD7GSW
Also present: John - WBØCMC, Jim – KDØCHU, Arnie – KAØNCR

The meeting was held on Friday 2/8/08 at 6:30pm. The January meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.

President - Greg Babbitt - WØAAI – No report.

Vice President - Mary Joseph – NØTRK - The February program will be on kit building by Dar W9HZC.

Treasurer – Brian Zdan - KMØY

Checking	3311.81	
MM Acct	5097.25	Int 10.31
Repeater	1132.12	
Repeater CD	2059.45	
CD	14700.43	
Total	26301.06	

Unfinished Business

Bylaws: Steve plans to amend one motion and withdraw two of the motions. A vote is still planned.

New Business

Greg pointed out that we need to put the room back in order after the club meetings. Also the Red Cross was asking about the deposit so we will present the check number to show that we paid it.

Steve NØUP moved that we get the presidents plaques going again. Jim KCØSHZ seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Jim KCØSHZ moved that memorials be given each year in the name of silent keys, in the amount of approximately \$25 each, not to exceed \$1000 total, to the ARRL Education Foundation. Mary NØTRK seconds the motion. The motion passed.

Committees

Public Service – Jim KCØSHZ reported that the MS-150 bike ride will be a two day event this year. It is July 11th and 12th. A new yahoo group was started to facilitate communication in organizing the local SATERN organization.

Education – Mary NØTRK is planning to offer a radio usage and net protocol class to CERT members in the near future. This is not a ham radio class. In conjunction to that class, we would like to offer a ham technician class.

Repeater – John WBØCMC reported that there is a small glitch but the problem is not known yet.

Publications – Steve NØUP reported that the Ham Hums were mailed on Tuesday.

Field Day – Corby KØSKW reported that he will be contacting Mahoney Park.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 3/11 at 7:00pm
Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Doug Rathman, NGØK, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary.

Veep Speaks

Mary Joseph, NØTRK, Vice President

In an effort to keep you all informed about what is upcoming in the way of programs...

In April we will have a program on APRS

And while the dates are not yet firmed we will have a program from the AFWA (Air Force Weather Agency) about Space Weather and its affects on communication (May or June is what it is looking like).

We will also have a program about Pirate Radio Stations and Spy Stations - still working on the dates. This one might depend on what is best for the Air Force.

In July or August I am looking at our annual tailgate in the parking lot, but maybe with a twist. More on that if it pans out.

Also looking at another program on DSTAR as this technology is taking hold in Omaha and many people are experimenting with this mode and its capabilities. We can do some hands on demos of data, and maybe find someone in another state over the Internet Gateway. There are lots of options for software and even some home brew DSTAR projects I have seen on the web. If you are playing with DSTAR let me know!

I'd like to find someone to do a talk on HF Contesting in November and then find a station or two or three that we can get some folks on the air for November Sweeps (phone portion). I have room for a couple of operators in my shack or maybe we can open the EOC... who else can host a few folks during Sweepstakes weekend??? Anyone available to do a talk about contesting and awards and DX? I'd really like to see this as Sweepstakes is the following day! What a great time to practice what you have learned?

Some of the ideas that have been suggested are:

- Transmitter Hunting - is the bunny still alive?
- Bicycle Mobile Hams - CW while pedaling?
- Amateur TV - I can see you now!
- Repeater Linking - wow! How far can I talk with my Handheld?
- County Hunting - is it possible to talk from the border of Douglas and Pottawattamie Counties?
- Emergency Communications - Beyond the use of VHF repeaters?
- Morse Code QSOs - a how to for the new to CW folks
- QSL'ing... how to get cards, using the "burro", Green Stamps...

Can you help with any one of these ideas? Or want to help with any other topics? Know someone who can help out? Let me know!



Spotter Training 2008



It is almost time for the annual spotter training. Brian Smith will be hosting the classes that run between 1 1/2 and 2 hours and provide a basic understanding of storm structure, reporting criteria and procedures. No registration is necessary simply plan to attend a class near by. In the Omaha Metro Area you can plan on attending:

March 24, 7:00 p.m. at the Boystown National Headquarters Auditorium at 14100 Crawford Street.

April 1, 7:00 p.m. at the Sarpy County Fire Training Academy.

For other locations and times please consult
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/oax/skywarn/outreach.php>

OMMRS DRILL

There will be an OMMRS related drill on March 22, from approximately 10:00 to 12:00 noon. This drill is to test response time. There will be no pre-assignments. We are testing the time from call up to setup.

We ask that you keep your radio turned to 146.940 and be ready to respond as you would if it were a true activation. We will see how many hospitals we can staff with at least 1 ham, have check ins go to that location and set up the equipment. All other details will be available on the net. We are trying to simulate a disaster event and response.

Remember that security at each site will be asking for a photo ID and to see a copy of your amateur radio license. Make sure you have them with you.

You can respond that you will be available to n0trk@cox.net

Siren Test 2008

Please mark your calendars, Saturday April 5, 2008 will be the annual siren test in Sarpy and Douglas Counties. The test will begin at 10:00 am and most likely continue until shortly after 11:00 am. ARES and REACT will again be checking all the sirens in the county. If you are available to assist from around 9:00 to 11:30 or so on April 5th, please contact Dar W9HZC, 402-991-0412 or w9hzc@cox.net

There will also be one or more soundings on Wednesday, April 2, 2008. If you can help in the morning (around 10:00) or in the evening please let Dar know as well.

Steve N0UP

MS Walk 2008

We are looking for volunteers!

The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club will be providing radio communication support for the Multiple Sclerosis Society during their fund raising MS Walk on Sunday, April 13th, 2008. We've gotten a few volunteers so far, but we need several more for our radio team. We will need operators stationed along the route to help during the event. We will relay information about the walk progress, identify supply needs for water stops and most importantly assist with any safety and health concerns for the participants. The event will run from about 8 am until the last walkers have returned (usually around noon).

As was the case last year, the walk will start at the Scott Conference Center on the UNO Campus, continue through Elmwood Park, cross over the pedestrian bridge into Memorial Park and then circle back.

If you can be a part of our team, or if you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at 402-964-9960.

Rob Buchholz, KCØOYT
kc0oyt@arri.net

Help Wanted

The Board of Directors is looking for help in the following positions for 2008.

- Education, we would like to have one or more Technician classes, and there is member interest in General and Extra classes
- Membership, the Membership is seeking assistance
- Website, the webmaster is looking for an assistant or a new webmaster
- Programs, the program chair is looking for ideas for 2008
- Publications, the Ham Hum Editor is looking for help starting after Field Day

3982 HF Net

Please note the Sunday night ARES HF Net on 3982 will be at **2045 hours** (8:45PM) for the time being. This will allow 15 minutes for the HF net before the regular 34/94 net starts at 2100 hours. This time change was facilitated for those of us who have difficulty multitasking ☺

Thanks all...
Darwin (Dar) Piatt, W9HZC
Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Douglas County Emergency Coordinator
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Deputy Communications Officer