

PICNIC

ALL-AREA COMMUNICATORS PICNIC

BARC is again sponsoring this year's ALL COMMUNICATORS PICNIC. This is a chance for all the volunteer COMMUNICATORS to come together, meet face to face, have some fun and share some tall tales — food and fellowship. You all are welcome to join us regardless of club affiliation, ARES, RACES, REACT, or CERT membership, class of license, mode of operation etc. . . . You name it, you are welcome!

May 31st

- May 31st, 2008
- From 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Picnic Shelter at HALLECK PARK PAPPILLION NEBRASKA

(APPROX 80TH & HALLECK STREETS)

- ALL BEEF HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS
- CHIPS
- SALAD
- COLE SLAW
- BAKED BEANS
- BUNS—CONDIMENTS

\$6.50 PERSON IN ADVANCE -- \$7.00 AT THE PARK --- CHILDREN 6 TO 12 YEARS \$4.00



RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE TO

LaDONNA CLARK
picnic@bellevuearc.org
www.bellevuearc.org

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Method of Payment CHECK CASH
 Order total _____

EZNEC Demo 5.0 Released

This past January I purchased a new computer. It can be fun and at the same time, a pain in the you-know-what to get a new computer all set up! Of course I had to get some of my ham radio software loaded and one of the most important programs in my arsenal is the EZNEC antenna modeling program by W7EL. I use this program all the time, mostly trying to come up with a new idea or helping another hams decide what might work at their QTH. After getting on the W7EL website I noticed that a new demo version 5.0 was released. So if you are an antenna modeler and want to download the latest release, here is the website address: <http://www.eznec.com/>

73, Doug, NG0K

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

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May 2008

The Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch: Lost Traditions?

L. B. Cebik, W4RNL

- "The Wouff-Hong is amateur radio's most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation."
- "The Rettysnitch. . . is used to enforce the principles of decency in operating work."

The Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1930, p. 11

In 1930, the Handbook had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared, and by 1947, the Handbook had deleted both photos. Just when we needed traditions of law and order and of decency in amateur operations to guide its growth in the post World-War-II explosion of technology and easier licensing, the symbols had disappeared from view.



Many of today's hams have no idea what a Wouff-Hong and a Rettysnitch look like. To rectify that gap in hamdom's essential history, I have used my very limited CAD abilities to make sketches of the two instruments. Figure 1 is the Wouff-Hong. The two main pieces appear to be wood banded by metal strapping and by heavy wire. What the sketch cannot convey is the darkness at the upper end of the longer wood piece, as if stained by blood or purified for its grave duties in the fires of purgatory—or both.

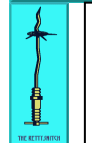


Figure 2 is a sketch of the Rettysnitch, an all-metal tool. Of the 5 teeth around the disk near the pointed end, only three remain. According to tradition, the other two have done their work and perished in the effort. Again, my limited skills in rendering the Rettysnitch rob the device of its terrible demeanor, and therefore of its force to ensure operating decency among amateurs.

Perhaps the last time the story of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch was told was in 1934. Thanks to Ed Guilford, AA7HQ, in Bothell, Washington, I have the May, '34, QST in which Rufus P. Turner—famous in the annals of electronics writings—recounted "Hamdom's Traditions: A Bedtime Story for Young Squirts." But even by Turner's time, the Rettysnitch was relegated to a paragraph on the story's continuation page in the back of the magazine, with no picture. Somehow, even then, folks had forgotten that you can never have law and order without first having decency. Some pessimists think that we now have neither.

I do not subscribe to the pessimist's view. Sure, the number of rotten operators has skyrocketed, but not their proportion to the main corps of
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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.

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Contest Calendar

May, 2008

FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 10
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 10 to 0300Z, May 11
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 17 to 1200Z, May 18
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 24 to 2359Z, May 25
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, CW	0800Z-1300Z, May 24
ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000 local - 2400 local, May 27
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 26 to 0300Z, May 27
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 28
Kids Roundup	1400Z, May 31 to 2200Z, Jun 1

June, 2008

RSGB National Field Day	1500Z, Jun 7 to 1500Z, Jun 8
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	1500Z, Jun 7 to 1459Z, Jun 8
Alabama QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 7 to 0400Z, Jun 8
Portugal Day Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Jun 14
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	1100Z-1300Z, Jun 14
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 14 to 0200Z, Jun 15
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Jun 14 to 0300Z, Jun 16
BCC QSO Party	1700Z-1900Z, Jun 25
Digital Pentathlon	1800Z-2200Z, Jun 27
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 28 to 1200Z, Jun 29
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jun 28 to 1400Z, Jun 29
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 28 to 2100Z, Jun 29

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

Upcoming Events

May 9	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross
May 16-18	Dayton Hamvention
May 16 & 17	Nebraska State Track Meet, Contact K0CTU for more info
May 17	RFJL Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM Village Inn 78 th & Dodge
May 28	HDXA & AARC VE Test Session, 6:30 PM, Red Cross
May 31	All Communicators Picnic, at Halleck Park in Papillion
June 10	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Red Cross
June 13	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross
June 28 & 29	Field Day
July 12 & 13	Dave Babcook Memorial Race
July 12 & 13	MS Bike Ride

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

Roll Call

[x] Greg–WØAAI [x] Mary–NØTRK [x] Brian–KMØY [x] Doug–NGØK
[x] Jim–KCØSHZ [x] Steve–NØUP [] Corby–KØSKW [x] Marvin–AEØEG
[x] Rollie–ABØNN [] Todd–KKØDX [] Dan–KD7GSW
Also Jim–ACØKX

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Secretary - Doug Rathman – NGØK

The March meeting minutes were accepted as read.

President - Greg Babbitt - WØAAI

See unfinished business.

Vice President/Programs - Mary Joseph - NØTRK

Mark N9TXN will give a presentation on APRS at the next club meeting.

Treasurer - Brian Zdan - KMØY

Checking	3396.19	
MM Acct	5115.24	Int 8.99
Repeater	1132.12	
Repeater CD	2059.45	
CD	14,700	
Total	26,403	

Unfinished Business

A meeting will be set up in the next week or so with the Venturing Group of the Boy Scouts.

New Business

None

Public Service – Jim - KCØSHZ

Spotter training introduced a map of locations to read creek levels this year.

Education – Mary - NØTRK

Tech class to be held starting May 6th. It will be held at the North West Precinct community room.

Membership – Marvin – AEØEG

No report.

Publications – Steve - NØUP

Most of this meeting was spent preparing the Ham Hum mailing at this meeting.

Field Day – Corby – KØSKW

No report.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday 5/6 at 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

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

Continued from Wouff-Hong, Page 1

good, legal, and decent operators, capable and courteous to a fault. We should not be troubled by the size of the job of curing amateur radio of its illegalities and indecencies, for we have more folks to help use the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch just where and how they ought to be used. No, not on others, but on ourselves--to make sure that we set a model for how amateur operations ought to be conducted.

Turner offers no prescription for using either device, but thought the Wouff-Hong able to beat out King Kong's brains or easily plow up acres of Manhattan bedrock. That will tell you something of the power of these machines. But it won't tell you how they came to be.

Remember T.O.M.--The Old Man--who wrote in earliest days of "Rotten QRM." His very first article in 1917 blasted concocted abbreviations just coming into use. Among the almost unintelligible gibberish in his headphones were words like "wouff hong" and "rettysnitch," surely instruments of terrifying punishment. By mid-1917, ARRL was besieged by orders for these contraptions, orders that could not be filled because the League staff had never seen either device.

In 1919, after World War I (then called simply the Great War since no one could imagine doing all that destruction and killing all over again), the League once more took up its work in earnest. At just this critical time, the Directors received from The Old Man a package containing an authoritative and well-preserved specimen of Wouff-Hong. Turner described the contents of the package as "the gruesome instrument of torture." By order of the Directors, it was hung in the office of the Secretary-Editor, within easy reach. Its first portrait appeared in QST for July that year. At each Board meeting, the Wouff-Hong stood on display, to the blanched looks of the humbled Directors.

The Old Man also presented the world with its first glimpse of the Rettysnitch. In 1921, the monstrous machine was presented to the League traffic manager by the Washington, D.C., Radio Club, ostensibly after receiving it from T.O.M. Even at its first public appearance, two of its teeth were missing, suggesting a long history of necessary and effective use. However, to this day, the Rettysnitch has lost no other teeth. It was ordered to hang by its mate.

In the 20s and 30s, many a reproduction of both instruments, but especially the Wouff-Hong, materialized across the country. A group of hams in Flint, Michigan, created the mystic society called the Royal Order of the Wouff-Hong. The society endures to this day, according to legends to which I have so far not been privy. And The Old Man has been given a name: Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW. At least, legend tells the story that way, perhaps based on the fact that T.O.M. glared at "Kitty" while reflecting on the "rotteness" of everything. Maxim did have a cat. However, true to feline nature, Maxim's cat

Continued on page 5

Un-Justified Misgivings

It was a dark and stormy night, a good reason to stay in and talk on the radio, Monday the 14th before tax day. These guys listed must've either already had theirs done or were filing Form 4868 (extension).

Rich WA0ZQG So. Co/Bifs

Mon. 9PM Info Net on .94

x **Michael KC0ZXX Irvington NE**
o **John KB0COE mob.**
x **Tim KC0UJM West O**
x **James AC0KX cent O - IRLP?**
x **Norm WA0JYD IRLP 443.725+**
x **Jim KC0SHZ RMB's sale ?**
x **Jeff WB0M wkg late**
x **Ed KD0CVG rptr list ?**
x **Tim KC0HWG Pac.Jnctn IA**
x **Pete KC0UFM Ithaca NE**
x **Steve KB8UEV VOA ants. OHIO FT-60 H/T**

We went through the usual subjects, upcoming Flea Markets and club meetings, with Jim AC0KX asking about IRLP or Echo-Link repeaters. Norm WA0JYD jumped in to mention Brandon KF6SWL's repeater on 443.725+ that is on the IRLP network. He said it's especially active late at night when a West Coast net begins at 1AM our time. (Also earlier.) The repeater is in NW Omaha and is heard best out there. In Council Bluffs the 442.525+ is on Echo-Link.

One subject repeatedly mentioned was (SK) Cecil's Estate Sale where the few of us who went saw:

- military test equipment
- general test equipment
- cathode ray tube rejuvenator (color - 3 guns)
- pre WWII 'Crosley' table radio - 1920s ?
- **Tek type 453** o'scope and replacement CRT
- Cobra 13-509 ten Watt **220** xtal rig
- Kenw. 7200 **2M** xtal rig & match'g p/s w/clock
- MFJ UHF **SWR Analyzer** (for 440)

The family is doing it again Sat/Sun, June 14-15. (Five blocks South of Dodge St. at 51st Avenue.)

Jim AC0KX had another question, where to get a list of local repeaters to which Tim KC0UM responded with a web site: **K5EHX.net**
It's good. Useful for repeater info anywhere in USA.

Towards the end of the net a visitor broke in to ask if anyone had a Yaesu FT-60 manual. He'd left his on the plane getting here and wanted to program it. That's when Tim UJM put Omaha on the map for the guy - offering to put a 'pdf' copy on the I-Net, and after more discussion, realizing

the visitor was staying at the Regency Marriott, not far from his work, offered to PRINT OUT the entire manual and leave it at the hotel desk on his way in to work Tuesday morning. Real nice, but we all sort of wondered, does he get his paper and ink wholesale?

It was a good net, a little longer than some - the guy asking for the FT-60 info only listening to the last half of it - from 9:40 - 10:20PM.

info de Net Control

P.S. The odd title here derives from Tim's suffix.

Continued from Wouff-Hong, Page 3

never spilled the beans.

But what has become of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch? More important, what has become of their power to enforce both decency and law and order on the ham bands? Hams used to cringe at the thought, let alone the sight, of these dreadful tools of enforcement. But, we do not hear of them much anymore. Oh, a tremor of curiosity every now and again brings out a ripple of questions and speculation. But not much more more than a ripple.

You see, today, we have much more terrifying weapons, things like Oozies and H-booms and the like. They scare us in ways that seem to make the Wouff- Hong and the Rettysnitch tame and toothless. However, even in Maxim's day, objectively more powerful weapons were used in France, like tanques and gas more poisonous than that made by Texas chile. Why were the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch so powerful to those early hams?

Because those hams cared about amateur radio in their hearts. They wanted what they knew they could never have: a perfectly law-abiding and decent radio service that would inspire young and old alike to become hams or, lacking the inclination to electronics, to become admirers of hams. Every minute of on-the-air time was a chance to show how noble a pursuit amateur radio was and should always be. They feared the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch as instruments of their own consciences, as they strove to meet the standards they set for themselves.

And that is where today you will find both the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch--deep in your own conscience. If they seem to hold no power, then you know it is time once more to elevate your standards a notch higher, and then to strive to achieve them perfectly. Each of us has a secret and private office where no one else may go. Above the door, facing our individual operating tables, hang two instruments, one of law and order, the other of decency. However much the outside world may neglect the tradition of these terrible reminders of responsibility, each of us posses our own Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch. May you never deserve their sting.

Like all legends, this one, too, must end with special words: pass it on.