

Antenna Trailer Renovations

As Field Day came and went this year, it gave us a good opportunity to begin thinking about our antenna trailer. There are several examples on the web of great crank up, quick set up tower trailers that would be easy to duplicate.

This would involve acquiring a suitable crankup tower and some construction to the existing trailer. Since our trailer is built on an old camper frame, it should be able to serve as a platform for a tower trailer. The biggest thing would be replacing the axle with something that parts are available for.

Some criteria for the project would be

- * Light weight, ideally around 1500 lbs loaded
- * Easy for two persons to set up
- * 2" ball
- * A cabinet for tools and equipment
- * A cabinet to hold a portable repeater or remote base
- * Brackets to hold 4 5 gallon gas cans
- * Brackets to hold 1 or 2 Honda EU2000i generators
- * SAFE
- * 30 to 45 feet tall fully extended
- * A box or case for a tri-band 144, 222, 440 antenna
- * A box or case for a tri-band 10, 15, 20 meter antenna
- * space for cords and coax
- * Space for VHF and UHF beams

We have already started preliminary discussions, but more input is needed and welcome.

Thanks
Steve N0UP

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| July 11 | AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross |
| July 12 & 13 | Dave Babcook Memorial Race |
| July 12 & 13 | MS Bike Ride |
| July 12 | PARC 11th Annual Flea Market, North Bend, NE |
| July 19 | OMMRS Test Contact N0TRK at n0trk@arri.net for info |
| July 19 | Sarpy County ARES meeting, 1:00 PM, Ogram Suite, Midlands Hospital, Papillion. Contact KC0YKN at kc0ykn@cox.net for info |
| July 29 | HDXA & AARC VE Test Session, 6:30 PM, Red Cross |
| August 2 | OMMRS Drill, Contact N0TRK or check the Sunday ARES net for info |
| August 5 | AK-SAR-BEN ARC Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Red Cross |
| August 8 | AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross |

AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

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July 2008 AKSARBEN Club Meeting

Next meeting of the AARC will be July 11th at the Red Cross at 81st and Spring (Near 84th and Center) at 7:30. This month's program will be on Station Grounding. Proper grounding of radio stations is probably one of the least understood aspects of ham radio. It almost has a certain aura of mystique or magic about it instead of being the pure science it should be. This is a very important aspect of any radio installation. Come and learn more about being grounded. All meetings of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club are open to the public. Door prizes are back! Refreshments will be served!

Grounding

When growing up, I was configuring a six foot relay rack with all sorts of equipment. My parent's house ran on fuses. Well here I was, on the roof, trying to run a ground line to what I thought was a safe thingie that stuck out of the roof, with my relay rack plugged in, and *poof!* the house went dark. How was I to know that in house wiring white is ground and black is hot? I blew all the fuses. Needless to say I did not make that mistake again.

73's (Amateur Radio for Best Wishes)
Scott WB0QPP SK

Per Aspera, Ad Astra
Through Our Efforts, To The Stars...

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	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
2007-2008 Board	Rollie Miller	ABØNN	402-333-1606	ab0nn@arrl.net
2007-2008 Board	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net
2007-2008 Board	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	AE0EG@arrl.net
2007-2008 Board	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@cox.net
2008-2009 Board (Secretary)	Doug Rathman	NGØK	402-493-7369	dlrathman@cox.net
2008-2009 Board (Treasurer)	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
2008-2009 Board	Dan Olsen	KD7GSW		
2008-2009 Board	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com

Standing Committee Chairs

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

Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@cox.net
Vice Chairman	Darrel Swenson	KØAWB	402-690-0000	dswenson@wearne.net
Member	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@arrl.net
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	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	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
Special Events Coordinator	Greg Ervin	KCØVTO	402-445-0317	gervin1@cox.net
ARRL Midwest Director	Bruce Frahm	KØBJ	785-462-7388	k0bj@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Clifford Ahrens	KØCA	573-221-8618	k0ca@arrl.org
NE Section Manager	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	402-944-7488	ka0boj@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Bill McCollum	KEØXQ		ke0xq@cox.net
Section EC	Jim Hitz	KCØDVG	402-642-2040	kc0dvg@arrl.net
EC Douglas County	Darwin Piatt	W9HZC	402-991-0412	w9hzc@cox.net
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN		
EC Washington County	Don Morgan	KBØVIY	402-427-7111	kb0vivy@yahoo.com
EC Pottawattamie County	Terry Lindsley	KSØL	712-325-0107	ks0l@arrl.net

Contest Calendar

July 2008

FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 12
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 12 to 1200Z, Jul 13
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 16
Feld Hell Sprint	0200Z-0300Z, Jul 19
	1000Z-1100Z, Jul 19
	1800Z-1900Z, Jul 19
VK/Trans-Tasman 160m Contest, CW	0800Z-1300Z, Jul 19
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 19 to 0600Z, Jul 20
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 19 to 2100Z, Jul 20
RSGB Low Power Field Day	0900Z-1200Z and 1300Z-1600Z, Jul 20
CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	2000Z-2159Z, Jul 20
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 26 to 1200Z, Jul 27

August, 2008

10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 2 to 2359Z, Aug 3
National Lighthouse Weekend QSO Contest	0001Z, Aug 2 to 2359Z, Aug 3
European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 2
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 2 to 1800Z, Aug 3
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 2 to 0600Z, Aug 3
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 9 to 2359Z, Aug 10
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 9 to 0400Z, Aug 10
	1600Z-2359Z, Aug 10
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Aug 16 to 2400 local, Aug 17
Russian District Award Contest	0800Z, Aug 16 to 0800Z, Aug 17
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 16 to 0600Z, Aug 17
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 16 to 0700Z, Aug 17
	1300Z, Aug 17 to 0200Z, Aug 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 18
Hawaii QSO Party	0700Z, Aug 23 to 2200Z, Aug 24
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 24
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 27
ALARA Contest	0600Z, Aug 30 to 1159Z, Aug 31
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 30 to 1159Z, Aug 31
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 30 to 1200Z, Aug 31
SARL HF CW Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Aug 31

For details check the following web site the week prior to the contest.

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

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2008

Roll Call

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

Also present was Gerry WA6POZ

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. The May meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.

President - Greg Babbitt - WØAAI See new business.

Vice President/Programs - Mary Joseph - NØTRK Mary was not present but the program for the upcoming Friday meeting will cover Field Day.

Treasurer - Brian Zdan - KMØY

Checking	3182.82	
MM Acct	5132.13	
Repeater	1132.12	
Repeater CD	2059.45	Due this month
CD	15,000.00	Renewed
Total	26,506.52	

Greg submitted a receipt for \$149.94 for Venture Group mailing expenses and a receipt for \$375 to secure the Millard Legion Hall.

Unfinished Business None

New Business

- Gerry will send Corby a copy of the KØUSA license for field day.
- Greg secured a contract with the Millard Legion Hall as the location for the Hamfest which will be October 5th.
- Doug moved that the club purchase a new Honda 2000 generator. Brian, KMØY, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Public Service – Jim - KCØSHZ

- This week the ARES was activated for the tornado cleanup.
- The Salvation Army will purchase equipment for the radio station installation at the headquarters.

Publications – Steve – NØUP The Ham Hum is on schedule for this month.

Repeater

The repeater was repaired to fix a low audio problem and the remote receive site at 137th and F Street and is operational.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday 7/18 at 7:00pm and the meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

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

Bloggng for the Blogless

Doug Rathman – NGØK

Blog? What is a Blog? For those of you that are “Blogless” here is the Wikipedia definition of a blog.

A **blog** (an abridgment of the term **web log**) is a [website](#), usually maintained by an individual, with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse chronological order. "Blog" can also be used as a verb, meaning *to maintain or add content to a blog*.

By now some of you have either read blogs, written blogs, or at least have heard of them. Blogging is popular in the ham radio world as well. Here are just a few blogs that I've referenced in the past.

The Btown Monitoring Post is a favorite of mine. <http://monitor-post.blogspot.com/>

W2LJ has a blog on QRP here <http://w2lj.blogspot.com/>

NØHR not only has a nice website but has a blog at http://www.n0hr.com/hamradio_blog/

Here is a blog on DX at <http://hamspirit.wordpress.com/>

If you want to find more blogs then use the Google search engine and you will find more than you can read.

Would you like to create you own blog? Of several hosting sites, one of the most popular is the Google blog site <https://www.blogger.com/> All you have to do is sign up for a Google account and create your blog. No computer programming is necessary. Most of the formatting is handled by templates that you can select. You can control your content easily, set archiving rules, upload photos, manage links, accept comments, control security and many other things.

So there you have it; a short introduction to blogging. Of course I have a blog too. Go check out “Amateur Radio Station NGØK” at <http://ng0k.blogspot.com/>

73 es CU on the blogs, de Doug

2008 MS Bike Ride, Saturday and Sunday (July 12 and 13)

Once again the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring the communications support for the 2008 Multiple Sclerosis Two Day Bike Ride.

This is a great chance for new hams to get involved in public service events. You need not be a member of any club, ARES, or RACES to volunteer your time and resources. No experience is required. If you are new to Amateur Radio public service events, we will give you hands on training in a practical and fun environment. This event gives us "old-timers" the chance to continue the tradition of helping others. So mark your calendars now, and spread the word around to your fellow hams and club members.

The MS Two Day Bike Ride will be Saturday and Sunday (July 12 & 13). This is the weekend before the Cornhusker State Games in Lincoln. Plans are to have the Two-Day bike riders start in Omaha Saturday morning and end in Lincoln Saturday afternoon. Locations of the traditional Saturday evening celebration party and awards dinner are still pending. The exact routes have not been determined at this time. The MS Society provides an official MS Society Bike Ride t-shirt, and meals both days to the volunteers.

Required resources will include a dual-band mobile radio and suitable antenna. Hand held dual band radios may also prove useful depending upon your assignment, and proximity to the repeaters. If you do not have dual-band radios, 2 meter radios will work. We will be using 2 meter frequencies as much as possible for primary communications, and 70cm frequencies for backup. Stations with APRS capability are encouraged to bring along their equipment and use it.

If you have a GMRS/FRS radio, you may want to consider bringing it with you. The riders will be encouraged to use channel 1 (without any PL tones) should they need help.

Amateur Radio operators are needed to staff water stops, SAG vehicles, bike repair vehicles, medical support vehicles, and last rider vehicles on the route. Specific duties for each will be provided at a later date.

If you would like to volunteer, or want more information, you may contact either of us in one of the following ways (NOTE that we prefer E-mail over phone calls):

- (1) George Bellairs: E-Mail: kb0zzt@arrl.net home phone: (402) 291-0960
- (2) Wayne Jorns: E-Mail: ke6dzd@arrl.net home phone: (402) 292-1727

I would prefer to use E-mail because it makes it a lot easier to keep everyone informed on our status. I realize that not everyone has e-mail so if we have to use phones, we will. You might also use a friend who has e-mail as a relay.

FEMA Self Study

This is a great educational opportunity for all hams to consider.

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities and the general public. All are offered free-of-charge to those who qualify for enrollment. Each Independent Study Course includes lessons with practice exercises and a final examination. Students who score 75 percent or better are issued a certificate of achievement from EMI.

[IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System](#)

[IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents](#)

[IS-700 National Incident Management System \(NIMS\), An Introduction](#)

[IS-800.A National Response Plan \(NRP\), An Introduction](#)

Please notify your county EC when you have completed the course(s).

Babcock Memorial bicycle race

Over the past few years we've been helping the Babcock Memorial bicycle races. The date for this year is Saturday, July 12, and Sunday, July 13th. This year the format will be a little different.

The races will consist of a time trial and two criteriums, but no road race. A time trial is a race against the clock where each rider is started on the course in one or two minute intervals. A criterium is a race held on closed city streets and lasts for a specific time or number of laps. The Saturday time trial will start at 8:00 AM and should run until 10:30 AM or so. The route starts at Mount Michael and heads north on 216th up to Bennington road and back to Mt. Michael. The Saturday criterium will be held in Papillion, and will start at 2:00 PM and will run throughout the day, and will end at 9:00 PM. The Sunday criterium will be the same downtown Omaha route that it has been for the past few years, and it will start around 9:00 AM and will run throughout the day. As soon as I know the exact location of the routes, the maps will be posted on our AksarbenTalk web page in the files section.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these races, send me a reply at k0ctu@arrl.net. Let me know which race and what time of day you can help. As soon as we get a few responses, we can let the race organizers know the amount of assistance we can provide.

Thanks and 73
Pat Joseph - KØCTU