

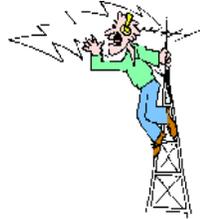
# HAM HUM

Volume LIV, Issue 6

June 2004

## The Prez Sez

BPL. Recently a club member received a survey call from JD Power. This was an OPPD survey and one of the questions asked was would you purchase broadband Internet service from your power provider. This question tells me that OPPD is considering leasing their long wire antennas to someone who may cause others and us problems. We need to begin a massive effort to educate the public about BPL and its harmful side effects, we also need to inform our elected officials (OPPD Board Members, City Councils, State Legislature, Congress) about this also.



Hams are not the only ones who may be interfered with. Qwest has filed comments that DSL may be interfered with. The State Patrol uses low band, as does the Red Cross. How about 49 MHz cordless phones? KMTV 3 is in the 2-80 MHz range that BPL uses. RC cars and airplanes use 27, 49 and 72 MHz. My garage door opener falls in this range, as does my Dad's fireplace remote control. X-10 devices that all the home automation guys are selling could be caused big problems. What about all the other public safety and military stuff in the HF/VHF areas?

The AK-SAR-BEN ARC now needs a coordinator for our resistance of BPL. The ideal candidate is not available due to a conflict of interests so that leaves YOU. This person should be familiar with BPL and the political system in this area. Contacts in the media are also helpful. This position could also be a committee of members of AK-SAR-BEN and other local clubs. We need a coordinated front to keep this from destroying our hobby and club. We need to invite our elected officials (OPPD Board Members, City Councils, State Legislature, Congress) to Field Day to see what we do and how we do it. This will mean a strong showing in the phone bands 15, 20 and 40, maybe even guest operators for a bit. If you think that this is for you, let me know soon. We need someone to write a good editorial and begin contacting media and elected officials soon.

Now for the fun. The picnic was a success, a bit windy, but a success. For future years we need to consider a different weekend and possibly having it in the big indoor type shelter at Mahoney. We could make this a fun ham radio day that could include games, special event station, a swap area, and all the fun at the park. The only problem is the current budget won't support this, we would need more income to do this.

Hope to see all of you at the Club meeting and Field Day!!

73s

Steve Schmitz  
NØUP

## Eppley Airfield Exercise

Mitch,

Here are some pix from the Eppley Airfield Exercise of May 15. These pix are of Geri N5RIG and myself AJØA at the Eppley conference center that was used for the Red Cross Family Assistance Center.

Rob, KCØOYT, was at the Eppley Field Maintenance Center which received "walking wounded."

Ken (AJØA)



P.S. The pix were taken by W0MDS, Mike Salmi, Director of Emergency Service for the Heartland Chapter ARC.

### Next Meeting Information

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004, 7:30 p.m.  
Red Cross at 82<sup>nd</sup> & Spring Streets.

Ken Noel (AJØA) will be giving a presentation "Real Night of the Twisters" from the Grand Island Tornado.

**146.94 KØUSA Repeater**

There have been some questions about how much the repeater is going to cost in the future, while my fortune telling is a bit inaccurate, I will give a best guess at anticipated expenses.

**Maintenance and operating costs**

There will be an annual inspection of the tower that will include any antennas and transmission lines on the tower. The tower owner will cover this cost and the inspections of our line and antenna will be included at no cost to us. The only time there would be a charge is if, lets say one of the line hangers were broken, and it needed to be replaced. This would normally be charged back to us, in reality we most likely would not ever see a charge for this.

I asked Warren Behrens, chief engineer KETV, what an approved tower crew would charge to replace a connector up at the 700' level. He said \$1000.00 if the tower crew was not in the Omaha area already. If they were in Omaha, and could do this as part of their visit, it would be \$600.00. In the past the club worked with WOVT's chief engineer and tried to catch work when he had a crew on the tower. Warren has said that he would let us know when he is going to have a crew on the tower and if we need anything done, the crew can do it at that time. This would save us the "mobilization" costs of the work, and we would only pay for the actual work that is done.

With the tower crew costs spelled out, we can estimate long-term operational costs. The cable, antennas and connectors have an estimated lifespan of 15 to 20 years. Our first antenna on Crown Point lived from 1978 to 1996 that is 18 years. The antenna after that was bad from the get go (loose elements inside). Shortly after that, HDTV forced the clearing of the tower. I have been told by communications professionals to expect an unplanned tower event every 10 years, so in a 15 to 20 year life we would have two events. At \$1000.00 (out of town crew) with 2 events in the life of the antennas and feedline that would equal \$2000.00 labor. Assuming that one problem is an antenna and one is a connector, I will figure \$1000.00 for the antenna and \$50.00 for the connector for a total of \$1050.00 parts. This is \$3050.00 total over 18 years (what the life of the old antenna was). This equals \$169.44 per year average. Even at three events in the lifespan of the system, the average cost would only be \$227.77 per year. I would estimate \$150.00 in parts and pieces annually for maintenance and repairs on the ground. A budget number for the future would be \$350.00 for maintenance and repairs with the leftover funds going into the repeater account to pay for future repairs.

These numbers are estimates only, if we can wait for the crew to be in town or even on the tower, these estimates will not be correct. Also any expansion or improvements are not estimated. There may be years when our expenses are less or more but the average should be close.

**What has the Repeater cost in the last few years**

This came from the treasurer a while ago. It is the result of some digging and hunting for the true numbers. I have no doubt that they are accurate. I have inquired about prior years but the books before 1999 are vague, to say the least. 1999 is the first year I consider reliable for this type of project.

**What the repeater cost vs. Field Day since 1999**

	Expense	Income	True Cost
Field Day	\$3,177.45	\$576.48	\$2,600.97
Equipment Maint. (Generator, towers, antenna, etc)	\$1,471.28	\$0.00	\$1,471.28
Trailer Registrations	\$170.20	\$0.00	\$170.20
Total Field Day Exp.			<b>\$4,242.45</b>
Repeater Maintenance (Including \$2500 Capital expense for a repeater purchase)	\$4,534.77	\$1,951.31	<b>\$2,583.46</b>

Field Day is a worthwhile part club activity, but the related expenses make it exceptionally higher than the repeater. There are also some capital expenses in both the maintenance of equipment and repeater costs.

Part of the Maintenance of equipment includes gas for the generator used during Field Day. Much of it is for the upkeep of the generator and antenna trailer (antenna trailer was made safe to pull a couple of years ago). These are not direct Field Day costs, so they are kept separate.

There is also an \$800.00 donation from ARES to the club that was used to pay for most of a new antenna, but the donation did not get put into the repeater fund (the donation was a result of donation of a tower to ARES and was sold by ARES). There is also a \$500 donation from the Omaha Pedalers Bicycle Club, \$300.00 of this was disbursed to other clubs for the upkeep of their equipment with AARC retaining \$200. The line items show that the 3 checks were out of the line item of the repeater fund, but the original \$500 was not put in the repeater account. Persons directly involved in these donations have said that the intent of the donation was for the repeater, the donation just wasn't put into the account (the money was put into the general fund and a check to cover expenses was written from there). Nothing is wrong with the accounting, it just makes comparisons more difficult.

The repeater expenses do include a \$1700.00 repeater, an \$800.00 controller and an \$87.04 Polyphaser purchased last year for a total of \$2587.04 along with \$125.38 in generator maintenance and fuel to make a total of \$2712.42 (the oft quoted number). So we didn't really spend \$2700.00 on a new repeater last year after all.

**What is going up the Tower**

Antenna VHF DB516 We already have this. It is in "as new" condition.

Antenna UHF DB636 (for link or repeater use) \$870.00 est. Tessco

Cross Band Coupler by Telewave \$210.75

7/8" Hardline, Actual cost with 2 "N" connectors, \$1421.16 (guaranteed price) plus freight

Hangers and round member adapters every 3 feet (270 of them) \$650.00

6 Hardline grounding kits \$95.00

Hoisting grips 5x \$110.00

Polyphaser in the transmitter hut \$60.00

Misc hardware and jumpers as needed \$650.00 est.

These are all estimated prices (except the cable) for the listed items, they are all subject to change and are for reference only. We have been and are shopping for the best value for the items we need. We think that this can be done for roughly \$5000.00 the big variable is freight.

It has been decided to put new hardline and components up so we have a better service life of all items. This has changed the budget numbers significantly this year. The thinking behind this is spending the money now will reduce the ongoing maintenance of the feedline and antennas. The new feedline will provide us with 15-20 years of reliable service.

All items going up the tower are commercial built to handle the environment. NO ham grade stuff is even being considered.

**If we don't move**

We will need to get a new rack cabinet with fans (the current rack is too small and the one we have to go to KETV is too tall, wide and deep too properly fit at 156th and Maple). We will also need to rebuild the remote receiver system, moving the guard tone generators to the remotes, this will enhance the operation of the voter. We will also need to get 5 matched UHF transceivers to replace the assortment of radios we have now. The new rack is needed to get everything into the cabinet again. I saw a cabinet on eBay a while

back that would have worked great. It sold for \$650.00 plus freight.

**Conclusion**

We have a great opportunity here to increase our coverage area at a bargain price. The annual maintenance will not be as bad as some have assumed, while more than I have budgeted for this year, it wouldn't have overstressed the budget. If we plan ahead, even the unexpected repairs will be manageable.



**Official Record**

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting  
Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc. May '04**

The Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Board of Trustees met on May 4, 2004 at 7:06 p.m. at the Red Cross Emergency Services building, 80th Avenue and Spring Streets, in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Roll Call of Officers and Board Members**

President Steve Schmitz, NØUP; Vice President Kurt Kettleson, KCØHMI; Secretary Ken Noel, AJØA; Treasurer Mary Joseph, NØTRK; and Board Members Kevin Hill, KAØVNY; Geri Norris, N5RIG; and Marvin Taylor, ADØEG. Unable to attend: Steven Wisnieski, KCØLOD; Bill McCollum, KE0XQ; Sam Bellami, KCØNWL; and Jim Westcott, KAØKCV.

**President's Report**

A Club member who wishes to remain anonymous is willing to match dollar for dollar (up to \$2,000) in donations received by the Club for the relocation and installation of the 146.34/94 KØUSA at KETV Crown Point.

The "Big 700 Footprint Club" was introduced whereby Ak-Sar-Ben ARC members and non-members can pledge financial support toward the relocation and installation of the 146.34/94 KØUSA at KETV Crown Point. Pledges to be paid to the Club treasury by Friday August 13, 2004 (August club meeting). The donation is to fund any expense incurred in the move of the repeater to the site and in the event that the donations exceed the required amount, the donation will be used for improvements and future projects and maintenance of the repeater system.

**Vice-President's Report**

Bill, KAØVXK will present a program on PSK and other HF digital modes at the May Club meeting.

**Secretary's Report**

No business was transacted at the April 6, 2004 Board meeting due to lack of a quorum.

The Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Board of Trustees held a short meeting just before the start of the General

Membership Meeting on April 9, 2004 at the Red Cross. President Steve Schmitz, NØUP, called the Board meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. A quorum was present. Minutes of the April 9, 2004 Board meeting were presented for approval. Kevin, KAØVNY moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mary, NØTRK seconds. Motion carries with one abstention.

**Treasurer's Report**

Financial position of the Club as of April 30, 2004.

Total cash assets of \$21,071.10 were held in the following separate accounts: checking \$1,684.59; savings \$4,654.22; repeater \$904.32; life membership \$13,827.97. Total liabilities of \$20.00. Equity \$21,051.10.

Income and expense for April 2004: income \$1,107.96; expenses \$303.10; net income over expense \$804.86.

**Standing Committee Reports**

Membership by Mary, NØTRK: A Members Only area is being developed for the Club's web site. Proposed roll out to be later this year.

Club meetings should have "meeters and greeters" to welcome members, newcomers and guests. This has been done before. Secty's Note: Any Club member, officer or director that regularly attends a meeting could do this.

Would like to resume activities like transmitter hunts that seem to have fallen by the wayside.

Disaster Preparedness by Ken, AJØA: The Eppley Airfield exercise is May 15, 2004. Ham radio communications will be used by DCEMA, Public Safety, OMMRS and Red Cross. Volunteers are needed for all operating positions.

Education by Kevin, KAØVNY: There are 10 students (4 youth and 6 adult) enrolled in the Spring 2004 Technician Class, one of which has already passed the exam. The class should wrap-up by the end of June with a VE test session.

Field Day by Steve, NØUP: The ARRL/AARC Field Day is June 26-27, 2004 at Standing Bear Lake (dam site 16) in Omaha, Nebraska. Set-up for the "best field day by a dam site" will begin on Friday June 25. The event officially runs from 1800z on 06/26 to 1800z on 06/27. Shack captains and helpers are needed. Contact Steve.

Repeater by Steve, NØUP: The Club still owns several hundred feet of 25 year old 7/8" hard-line and a dehydrator that was previously installed at the old 94 site (WOWT Crown Point). Due to the age of the hard-line, it would be prudent (to head off future

maintenance costs) not to mention good engineering practice to go with new 7/8" hard-line at the new site (KETV Crown Point). The old hard-line, dehydrator and a surplus Cellwave antenna could be sold to help fund the purchase of new hard-line. Kevin, KAØVNY moved to sell the old hard-line, dehydrator and antenna with funds to be deposited in the repeater account. Marvin, ADØEG seconds. Discussion: The surplus (old) S-Comm repeater controller could be sold. Kevin, KAØVNY amended his motion to include the S-Comm repeater controller. Marvin, ADØEG seconds. Motion carries as amended.

**Old Business**

Discussion on Club clothing.

**New Business**

None.

**Adjourn**

Mary, NØTRK moved to adjourn. Geri, N5RIG seconds. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Noel, AJØA – Secretary



**Official Record**

**Minutes of the Business Meeting**

**Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc. May '04**

The Ak-Sar-Ben ARC met on May 14, 2004 at the Red Cross Emergency Services building, 80th Avenue and Spring Streets, in Omaha, Nebraska. President Steve Schmitz NØUP, called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance, standard announcements were read, and self-introductions were made. There were 48 members and guests present.

Steve NØUP recessed the business meeting at 7:35 p.m. for the program that will be presented by Bill Duffy, KAØVXK on PSK and other HF digital modes. Secty. Note: Very interesting and informative program Bill. I would not be surprised to see others gearing up to try PSK.

Coffee and donuts followed. Thanks go out to Emily KCØMNT for bringing the refreshments, members and guests who contributed to the refreshment kitty, and the kitchen crew for cleaning up afterwards.

Business meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

**President's Report**

A Club member who wishes to remain anonymous is willing to match dollar for dollar (up to \$2,000) in donations received by the Club for the relocation and installation of the 146.34/94 KØUSA at KETV Crown Point.

The "Big 700 Footprint Club" was introduced whereby

Ak-Sar-Ben ARC members and non-members can pledge financial support toward the relocation and installation of the 146.34/94 KØUSA at KETV Crown Point. Pledges to be paid to the Club treasury by Friday August 13, 2004 (August club meeting). The donation is to fund any expense incurred in the move of the repeater to the site and in the event that the donations exceed the required amount, the donation will be used for improvements and future projects and maintenance of the repeater system.

The Club is an invited guest on the to be built KETV broadcast tower at Crown Point. The tower is being engineered to take into account loads like that which the Club's antenna system and other prospective tenants would present. General engineering details about the tower were discussed.

Location of the 2004 AARC Field Day is confirmed for Standing Bear Lake from Friday June 25 through Sunday June 27. The shelter has been reserved and a curfew waiver was obtained from the City of Omaha.

**Vice President's Report**

Thanks for the fine program on HF PSK Bill.

Programs that are on the calendar for future club meeting include HF Mobile & DX (unconfirmed), TV Dxing and Contesting.

**Secretary's Report**

John, WBØCMC moved to approve the minutes of the April 2004 Club meeting as printed in the Ham Hum. Michael, KAØSFV seconds. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report**

Financial position of the Club as of April 30, 2004.

Total cash assets of \$21,071.10 were held in the following separate accounts: checking \$1,684.59; savings \$4,654.22; repeater \$904.32; life membership \$13,827.97. Total liabilities of \$20.00. Equity \$21,051.10.

Income and expense for April 2004: income \$1,107.96; expenses \$303.10; net income over expense \$804.86.

**Standing Committee Reports**

Repeater by John, WBØCMC: The Club owned Icom RPT-1520 repeater had the same problem that the County owned Icom RPT-1520 had. A capacitor was installed backwards that caused a gradual degradation of receiver sensitivity. Both repeaters are tuned for 146.34/94 and operate as KØUSA with one available as a backup to the other.

Disaster Preparedness by Bill, KØNSA: The Eppley Airfield exercise is May 15, 2004. Ham radio communications will be used by DCEMA, Public

Safety, OMMRS and Red Cross. Volunteers are needed for all operating positions.

Ken, AJØA reported on several Red Cross classes that may be of interest to Club and ARES members. A current calendar with course descriptions is available on the glass display case outside the meeting room.

Special Events by Pat, KØCTU: The State Track Meet at Burke High School is May 21-22, 2004. The Club has been providing communications support to the track meet for 20 years. Volunteers are needed. Contact Pat if you can help.

Picnic by Jim, KAØKCV: The "Ants Aren't the Only Critters with Antennae" picnic is Saturday May 29, 2004 at Mahoney State Park. Setup at 9:00 a.m., serving at 11:00 a.m. Cost is \$4.00 per person, plus park entry permit (if you don't already have one) plus an additional food item. Meat, buns and condiments will be furnished.

**END OF STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**New Members**

None.

**Old Club Business**

None.

**New Club Business**

Jim, W0ATU reported that Lou, W0ST is now a Silent Key.

**Adjourn**

John, WBØCMC moved to adjourn. Jim, KAØKCV seconds. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Noel, AJØA, Secretary

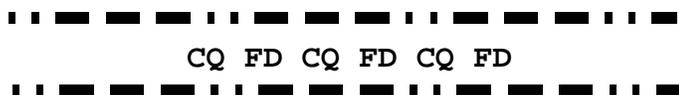


**Join The ARRL**

Have you wondered why you should join the ARRL?

You get [QST](#) which is simply **the source** for news and information on any topic that's part of, or relates to, Amateur Radio. The cost of membership is worth this feature alone. But you also are supporting the only national voice that Amateur Radio has to state our position on issues like BPL. If you are thinking about joining the ARRL, consider joining through the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club. Doing so will give the club a rebate of \$15. So you get a great magazine and you support amateur radio on both the local and national level. What a bargain!

Contact Mary NØTRK @ 492-9156 for the appropriate form for your new ARRL membership



**CQ FD CQ FD CQ FD**

Field Day is coming, please volunteer for a shack or other position as soon as possible. Positions are filling fast. We are going to shoot for 8A this year, check last year's scores to find out why. The antenna combinations will be figured out later in a way to optimize our contacts.

- FD Chair Steve-NØUP
- FD Co-Chair (?)
- Public Relations (100 bonus points for publicity!) (?)
- Press/Tour Guide KØNSA
- Public Info Booth (another 100 bonus points!)
- KØNSA/KCØHLB
- Official site visitation (100 bonus points!) (?)
- Night-time Security KAØKCV
- Logging/computers (We NEED several laptops!) (?)
- Generator Transport AARC Gen K9RZ
- Alternate Power NØTRK
- Antenna Trailer (Need SUV/truck w/2" ball to get this) (?)
- Tower Climbers (?)
- Satellite (100 bonus points!) (?)
- Traffic Hdlg (300 bonus points!) KØNSA
- Bill says he needs a bit of help here.
- The radio, TNC, and computer will be there!
- 100 pts W1AW FD message rcvd
- 100 pts Message to SM or SEC
- 100 pts Originating/relaying 10 messages

**Demonstration Modes (3 allowed)**

- ATV (100 bonus points!) (?)
- APRS (100 bonus points!) KØNSA
- SSTV (100 bonus points!) NØTRK & NØUP

**SHACKS**

- First Aid shack (?)
- Cook Shack KCØHLB
- Potty Shacks NØUP

**20/40 meter CW**

- Rig/PC: HDXA
- Ant: Vertical in antenna trailer
- Shelter: HDXA

**20 meter SSB**

- Rig: May be taken
- Ant: AARC antenna trailer
- Shelter: (?)

**15 meter SSB**

- Rig/Shelter/PC: Open
- Ant: AARC antenna trailer

**80/10 SSB**

- Rig/Shelter/PC: Open

**40 meter SSB**

- Rig/Shelter/PC: N5RIG/KØCTU
- Ant: KØCTU

**15/80 CW**

- Rig Ants Shelter: WØDB

**VHF/UHF Shack**

- Rigs/Shelter/PC: KØNSA
- Ant: AARC antenna trailer has all



**Flea Markets**

**Pioneer Amateur Radio Club Flea Market**

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004

9:00 a.m. To 1:00 p.m.  
St Charles Parish Center  
811 Locust St  
North Bend, Nebraska

Hourly Prize Drawings

Door Prize Drawing @ 12:15 p.m.

\$2.00 admission at the door

Vendor setup at 7:30 a.m.

Food Stand / Air Conditioned

Talk-in on 146.670(-) WNØL Repeater

All tables are \$5.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door

Registrations can be mailed to:

Rich Mehaffey KBØARZ  
1525 County Road 5  
North Bend, NE 68649-4011  
402-652-3410

mehaffey@dtnspeed.net

**Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club's Fleaesta**

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Sarpy County Fairgrounds  
4-H Building  
Springfield, Nebraska

Contact Pat Joseph KØCTU for more info

402-492-9156 or flea@aksarbenarc.org

### Do you want the 146.940 KØUSA repeater to move to KETV's Crown Point tower site?

Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club has the opportunity to locate our antenna about 650' in the air on KETV's new tower. It is anticipated that this move could give handheld radios access throughout the local area, and would greatly extend access to more powerful radios.

**This question will discussed and voted on at the June 2004 general membership meeting.**



#### Volunteer Oppurtunity

Hi Everyone!

It is approaching the time for the yearly MS Bike Rides. Things will be a little different than past years in the fact that the MS-150 will be held before the MS-50. I understand this is the way it was done years ago. The Bellevue Amateur Radio Club has been the communications sponsor for many years, and the MS Society and cyclists are greatly appreciative for the support that the Amateur Radio community has given.

The MS-150 will be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 10-11 this year. Starting point will be the Wahoo High School on Saturday morning and they will stop for lunch in Seward. This will be the end for those only riding the 45 mile route. The 75 and 100 milers will then continue on a loop to the south of Seward and back. The usual Saturday night festivities will be in Seward.

Then on Sunday morning they will leave Seward bright and early to head back towards Wahoo for the finish. As usual, I am in need of people to man waterstops on both days, and to ride herd on the cyclists. We are especially in need of people who are EMT or Medic qualified. If you would like to volunteer, drop me an e-mail and let me know the kind of time you would like to donate for a good cause. You can work part of a day, all of a day, or the entire weekend.

The MS-50 will be held on Sunday, September 12. More on it later.

Come out and support a great cause!

Doug , KAØO  
[ka0o@arrl.net](mailto:ka0o@arrl.net)  
402-630-0744 (cell)  
402-291-1968 (home)



#### VE Session

The next VE session sponsored by the Ak-Sar-Ben ARC with assistance from the HDXA will be held on Tuesday July 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the Red Cross at 81st and Spring Streets here in Omaha.

#### A Job Well Done

For myself and the organizers of the **Dave Babcock Memorial Bike Race**, I would like to thank everyone for their contribution today. The net went great and there were only a few collisions of the radio transmission type. What really impressed me was the way you all would wait until a discussion was finished before you would call for net control.



I should have announced to all of you that if there was any emergency traffic that you could and should break in at any time. Even though I didn't make that statement, I'm sure that you all would have done just that. You are all amateurs by license description only. Your performance today was professional by any standards.



Special thanks goes out to Geri N5RIG for bringing out the APRS station and monitor and **wowing** the race officials. And also to Kurt KCØHMI for supplying an APRS tracker for one of our vehicles.

Pat CTU

Thanks to :

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Pat KØCTU*    | Rob KCØOYT   |
| Ronnie WD0GCN | Geri N5RIG   |
| Barb KCØHLB*  | Jim KCØSHZ   |
| Jim KAØKCV*   | Mary NØTRK*  |
| Matt KØMIB*   | Kevin KAØVNY |
| Mitch KCØMXV  | Eric KG8Z*   |
| Bill KØNSA    | Linda WØNSA  |
|               | Wayne KE6DZD |

**THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED!!!**

\*denotes worked both days of the event

**Lewis & Clark Celebration**



Coming in late July will be the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This event promises to garner more attention than the original expedition as thousands of people are expected to descend on the cities hosting events and hundreds of boats are expected to join the Lewis and Clark

reenactors as the journey up the Missouri River. Amateur radio operators can play an important role in safety on the river. Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary radios do not cover all of the river they need to patrol, the flexibility of the amateur radio network is once again needed. Check with your local ARES Emergency Co-ordinator as to positions that are needed. 26 amateurs have already completed basic safety training, but land based units will be needed as well. You can find out more about the event at the following web site:

<http://www.lewisandclarkne.org/>

**State Track Meet**

Thanks to the following people for their dedication to community service by assisting the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club provide communications to the State Track Meet at Burke Stadium.

- |        |        |
|--------|--------|
| KAØKCV | KCØHLB |
| KCØLOD | KCØOYT |
| W5UZQ  | WDØGCN |
| KEØET  | KØCTU  |
| NØTRK  | KCØHMI |
| WBØPRH | KCØR   |
| KØIT   | WØAAI  |

**BPL**

Broadband over Powerlines is a potential threat to radio communications, particularly the frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz. BPL could affect HF and low-VHF radio reception. This spectrum contains users such as maritime (commercial and emergency), aviation, shortwave broadcasters and amateur radio operators. In this country it is being championed as a way for cheap internet access for the masses, in other countries it has been banned because of the interference it causes and because of the expense. There are many links at our BPL web-page for you to read.



<http://www.aksarbenarc.org/bpl.shtml>

**Annual AATOCWA Picnic**

The annual Ants Aren't The Only Critters With Antennae Picnic was held on Memorial Day 2004.



Bill Newman (KØNSA) and Pat Joseph (KØCTU) attempt to make a few QSO's before severe WX moves in (above).

The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club has been an ARRL Affiliated Club, since February 1945. It is also a Special Service Club. Special Service Clubs are those that go the extra mile to keep amateur radio alive and well. They are the ones that sponsor training classes, VE sessions, take amateur radio to the public by having displays at malls and sending representatives to schools and other organizations.. They sponsor repeaters and packet BBS's. The Special Service Clubs support emergency communications and support the charity races, walk-a-thons and bike rides. They host flea markets and hamfests. The earning of this honor rests with you, the membership of this club. It is great to see so many new faces getting involved in the events and activities of this long standing organization. But there can never been too many involved. Contact the club leadership to see where you can get involved and keep the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club one of the best groups around.



Check out page 10 for a sample draft letter to send to your senator about BPL and it's threat to amateur radio and the services we provide.



What is "The Big 700 Footprint Club?" It is a way for you to show your support of the opportunity the club has been given to put the repeater back to the height we enjoyed for most of the last 25 years. KETV has **invited** the club to put its antenna on the tower they will be building to replace the one that collapsed last July 4th.

To help ensure there are funds available to do the installation of the antenna and feedline on the tower, the AARC will take pledges for the cause. In the event that the vote at the June meeting is to move the 146.940(-) KØUSA repeater from the current location on the ATS tower at the 911 Center to 700' on the KETV broadcast tower, your pledge will be payable by the August 13th, 2004 Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Club meeting. In the event that the vote goes the other way, your pledge will not be payable. A Donors Hall of Fame will be created on the web site. We

have an offer to match up to \$2000 in donation. So every dollar you give will be doubled up to \$2000.

Those that remember the nearly 20 years that the repeater was at 650' mark on the WOWT broadcast tower just a few yards to the north of the potential location, are aware of the awesome footprint that the repeater had not only in the city of Omaha itself, but the surrounding area. The repeater was reliable for more than a 50 mile radius for mobile traffic. Hand-holds from down town were reliable as well. The club already owns a viturually new commercial grade antenna designed to survive in the environment that was slated to go up on the WOWT tower at 650'. The club also has access to a handsome donated equipment rack to house the new repeater system.

If you feel that the club should accept the invitation and move the repeater show your financial support, by filling out the pledge form and sending it to:

Ak-Sar-Ben ARC  
 PO Box 24551  
 Omaha, NE 68124

----- Cut Here -----

I want to join the BIG 700 FOOTPRINT Club. To show my support for the move of the KØUSA 146.940 repeater, in the event that the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club votes to move the KØUSA repeater to the 700 foot level on the KETV broadcast tower, I pledge to donate

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \$\_\_\_\_\_ other amount

to be paid to the club treasury by Friday August 13, 2004 (August club meeting). This donation is to fund any expense incurred in the move of the repeater to the site and in the event that the donations exceed the required amount, the donation will be used for improvements and future projects and maintenance of the repeater system.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Publish my name but not the amount I pledged
- Publish the amount I pledged but not my name
- Publish both the amount I pledged and my name
- I will match club received donation up to \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- I am an AARC member
- I am an ARES member
- I am not a member but support the move to KETV's tower

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

The AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club inc. is a 501(c)3 organization, donations may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.

## DRAFT LETTER TO SENATOR

[date]

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

[See [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) for addresses]

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. \_\_\_\_\_:

On April 26, President Bush told the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention in Minneapolis: "There needs to be technical standards to make possible new broadband technologies, such as the use of high-speed communication directly over power lines. Power lines were for electricity; power lines can be used for broadband technology. So the technical standards need to be changed to encourage that."

Mr. Bush is wrong. Although universal broadband service is a worthy goal, using power lines to distribute broadband services (called Broadband over Power Lines, or BPL) is a bad idea that should not be encouraged. There are better ways to do it. As a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator who has passed a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) examination in radiocommunication technology, I can tell you why.

Power lines were designed to transmit electrical energy. They were not designed to transmit broadband signals, which is fact are radio-frequency (RF) signals. When a broadband signal is put on a power line, much of the RF energy leaks off the line and radiates, causing interference to nearby radio receivers. Interference has been documented at test sites throughout the country and overseas where BPL is in operation. Recordings of actual interference at several test sites are available at [www.arri.org/bpl](http://www.arri.org/bpl).

The nation's 680,000 radio amateurs are especially concerned about this interference because it affects the short waves -- a unique portion of the radio spectrum that supports long-distance, intercontinental radio communication. Licensed radio amateurs use these frequencies for hurricane reporting, disaster and emergency relief, and many other purposes in accordance with FCC regulations. The Amateur Radio Service is the only 100% failsafe emergency communications capability in the world. No matter what happens, radio amateurs will be able to communicate with one another without having to rely on the expensive and vulnerable infrastructure -- but we cannot maintain our emergency networks if BPL is deployed and interferes with the weak radio signals we are trying to hear.

In addition to amateur operation, the short waves are used for international broadcasting, aeronautical, maritime, and other services including the military. Depending on the frequencies in use, BPL interference also could wipe out radio communication for many of our nation's First Responders -- police, fire, and emergency medical personnel -- who use low-band VHF radios operating in the 30-50 megahertz (MHz) range.

Radio amateurs support expanded broadband services to consumers at lower cost. Indeed, they tend to be early adopters of new technology. However, there are ways to deliver broadband that do not pollute the radio spectrum as BPL does. These include fiber-to-the-home, cable, DSL, and Broadband Wireless Access. None of these technologies causes interference to short wave radio.

BPL is sometimes touted as a solution for rural areas. It is not. A BPL signal only carries a few thousand feet down a power line and then must be repeated. This requires a lot of hardware and will not be economic in areas with low population densities.

The FCC recognizes the interference potential of BPL and is in the midst of a rulemaking proceeding, ET Docket No. 04-37, that proposes new requirements and measurement guidelines for BPL systems. However, the FCC proposals do not go nearly far enough to protect over-the-air radiocommunication services.

In short, BPL has a major disadvantage that is not shared by other broadband technologies and that outweighs whatever benefit it may offer. National broadband telecommunications policy should not include support for BPL, but should focus on other, more appropriate technologies.

By encouraging broadband over power lines, the administration is heading in the wrong direction. Please do what you can to change its course. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Address]

[Telephone and/or email]

## 2004 Club Officials

President (2004)	Steve Schmitz NØUP	402-597-8666	n0up@arrl.net
Vice President (2004)	Kurt Kettelson KCØHMI	402-676-7571	kc0hmi@qsl.net
Secretary (2004-2005)	Ken Noel AJØA	402-592-2338	knoel3@cox.net
Treasurer (2004-2005)	Mary Joseph NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
2004-2005 Board	Kevin Hill KAØVNY		ka0vny@arrl.net
2004 2005 Board	Sam Bellami		
2003-2004 Board	Bill McCollum KEØXQ	402-734- 3316	ke0xq@arrl.org
2003-2004 Board	Geri Norris N5RIG	402-721-1592	n5rig@arrl.net
2003-2004 Board	Steven Wisnieski KCØLOD		kc0lod@hotmail.com
2003-2004 Board	Marvin Taylor AEØEG		
Past President	Jim Westcott KAØKCV	402-397-2306	ka0kcv@arrl.net

## Club Contacts & Committee Chairs

Badges/Clothing	Darrel Swenson KØAWB	402-330-3010	k0awb@arrl.net
Club Callsign Trustee	Bill Newman KØNSA	402-498-0077	k0nsa@arrl.net
Courtesy Committee	Diane Edwards KCØDXI	402-496-3415	kc0dxi@qsl.net
Door Prizes	Open		
Education	Kevin Hill KAØVNY		ka0vny@arrl.net
Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
Field Day Coordinator	Steve Schmitz NØUP	402-597-8666	n0up@arrl.net
HF Contest & DX	Todd LeMense KKØDX		kk0dx@arrl.net
Membership/Web	Mary Joseph NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk
Newletter Editor	Mitch Miller KCØMXV	402-681-1964	kc0mxv@arrl.net
Publications	Open		
Public Relations	Barb Westcott KCØHLB	402-397-2306	kc0hlb@arrl.net
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph KØCTU	402 492-9156	k0ctu@arrl.net

## Repeater Committee & Authorized Control Operators

Chairman/Chief Eng	John Gebuhr WBØCMC	402-932-3443	wb0cmc@radiks.net
Control Op/ Engineer	Steve Schmidt NØUP	402-597-8666	n0up@arrl.net
Control Op/Engineer	Jamie Saker WØJRS	402-933-1521	w0jrs@arrl.net
Control Op/Callsign Trustee	Bill Newman KØNSA	402-498-0077	k0nsa@arrl.net
Control Operator	Mary Joseph NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@qsl.net
Control Operator	Ken NoelAJØA	402-592-2338	aj0a@arrl.net

## Area ARRL Appointees

Midwest Director	Wade Walstrom WØEJ	N/A	w0ej@arrl.org
Midwest Vice-Director	Bruce Frahm KØBJ	N/A	k0bj@arrl.org
Asst. Midwest Director	Todd LeMense KKØDX	402-397-7465	kk0dx@arrl.net
NE Section Manager	Bill McCollum KEØXQ	402-734-3316	ke0xq@arrl.org
Section Emer Coordinator	Reynolds Davis KØGND	N/ A	k0gnd@arrl.net
District Emer Coordinator	Jim Sanford NØAIH	402-238-3271	jim.sanford@nngco.com
EC Douglas County	Jim Westcott KAØKCV	402-397-2306	ka0kcv@arrl.net
EC Sarpy County	Doug Eubanks KAØO	402-291-1968	ka0o@arrl.net
EC Washington County Ray	Polley KØJDB	402-456-7852	polley@gpcom.net
EC Pottawattamie County	Terry Lindsley KSØL	402-325-0107	ks0l@arrl.net
Official Observer	George Bellairs KBØZZT	402-291-0960	kb0zzt@arrl.net
Net Manager	Doug Eubanks KAØO	402-291-1968	ka0o@arrl.net





## The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League since its founding in 1945, the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club of Omaha, Nebraska is a general interest amateur radio club with over 300 “radio-active” members.

Our members are involved in virtually every aspect of amateur radio from electronic circuit design to worldwide communication via voice and Morse code, satellite and space station communications, meteor scatter, computer assisted digital modes, amateur television, and even severe storm spotting for the National Weather Service.



We make a special effort to provide public service communications support for events such as parades, charity fund raisers, emergency preparedness drills, and disaster relief operations.

The club offers amateur radio classes to the public for those who wish to obtain an amateur radio license or upgrade their license privileges. For more information contact us via email at [k0usa@qsl.net](mailto:k0usa@qsl.net). If you have a scanner you can listen to the club's main wide area repeater at 146.940

Megahertz.

We're on the web at  
<http://www.aksarbenarc.org>