

PARC News

August, 2009

Volume 19 Issue 8



PARC/Dodge County ARES Participate in MARE/OMMRS Drill

A pre-Omaha air show drill at Offutt AFB (called the MARE) was held on Saturday, August 15. OMMRS was also activated. The Fremont Area Medical Center (FAMC) was not a player in the drill but five members of PARC/Dodge County ARES used the drill as an opportunity to activate and test the OMMRS equipment located at FAMC. Those participating were Mel, KØVLA; Bob, WØICE; Larry, KØSW; Linda, WØZIP; and Steve, KFØMS. Mel prepared the following critique for Pat Callaway at FAMC.

Critique of OMMRS Exercise
Fremont Area Medical Center
15-August-2009

Five radio amateurs arrived at 8:30 and security let us in room 2210 for the exercise. Security had to go back to their office and retrieve the key to get in the file cabinet where the equipment is located. Then the setting up of the equipment went smoothly and we were able to check in to the nets.

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PARC Programs

While we are eating, Lance WNØL will show a powerpoint presentation on the recent antenna and feedline upgrade.

After the business meeting, Bill KAØVXK will present "PSK-31 & Other Digital Modes".



Dave's Time

It hardly seems possible that the summer is winding down, but what a summer it has been, even with a continuing lack of sunspots. According to the ARRL Propagation Reports, some VHF/UHF operators were not impressed with the summer Sporadic-E season. But I sure was, especially on 2 meters, where I not only experienced Sporadic-E for the first time, but also was able to work the east coast on two occasions. I'll try to refrain from telling you that I worked Kansas on 432 MHz. Oops, it slipped out.

Karol and I spent a week in Alaska during the third week of August, which turned out to be the trip of a lifetime. The only thing better would be a trip to Antarctica, but Karol says that if I go there I will either be going alone or with a penguin. And all because a ship that I was considering sank down there last year. Picky, picky, picky!

Congratulations to PARC members Carl Johnson, WØGAJ and Gene Martin, WØUJI who will be honored at the QCWA luncheon in Omaha on August 27. Carl has been licensed for 60 years and Gene for 55 years.

Sadly we lost former PARC member Tim Beaver, KCØYRS who became a Silent Key on August 7. Lance, WNØL, Tara, KBØVNA, and I were able to attend his services and visit with his wife and mother about how much enjoyment he received from amateur radio.

We have two great programs coming up at the PARC meeting on August 28. WNØL will have slides of his repeater improvement project. Bill Duffy, KAØVXK will be our main speaker with a program titled "PSK-31 & Other Digital Modes".

And then in September come the Boyer Valley Hamfest on September 20 and the PARC picnic on September 27. I can hardly wait!

See you at the PARC meeting on August 28.

Dave T. WØNRW

PARC Minutes July 24, 2009

Dave called meeting to order at 7:30.

Everyone introduced themselves, 18 people present. The minutes were approved as printed in PARC News. The treasurer's report was approved as printed in PARC News.

Dave asked for a motion to pay the bills. Jane KBØZUN & Steve KFØMS made motion to pay bills.

Hospitality: Nothing.

Field Day: June 27 and 28 at Camp Fontanelle. There were questions of why the event was not held in North Bend. Rich KBØARZ said the church hall was booked this year. Larry KØSW wants Rich to check into the hall for next year. Rich will do this.

Flea Market: Was July 18 in North Bend. Rich said we had over 100 people come in and had sold 25 tables. This was the most tables of any year. 102 people signed up. 84 people paid \$2 ea. Total cash \$521 gross taken in. \$100 was won by a brand new ham. Date for next year is July 17th. One table is sold and we have the hall. We acquired 2 new members and gave 2 new memberships as prizes. Rich said NBØB Bob and Earl NØXBJ would not mind putting on a test session at the Flea Market. The Flea Market Food brought in \$290.05. After expenses, the net profit was \$165.40.

Picnic: Scheduled for September 27 at the Theophilus home at 5:30. The board meeting is 5 p.m. This is the week after the Boyer Valley Flea market in Mondamin, IA

Christmas Party: Is scheduled at Wooden Windmill for 6 p.m on December 5th.

Net Control: John thanked everyone for helping with the net.

ARES: The OMMRS antenna is installed at Three Riv-

**Check into the PARC Net
Every Wednesday at 7 p.m.
on the 146.67 repeater!**

ers but no radios yet.

The OMMRS / Offutt AFB drill is on August 15. FAMC is not involved. The Omaha sites are involved. Pat Callaway is in charge.

Arn KAØNCR sent Dave WØNRW an e-mail tonight while he is on RAGBRAI saying Wilbur's KØSCN shooting award was for 100,000 shots.

Old Business: Nothing.

New Business: Bob Holbrook, NØMRV, is donating Cushcraft R5 to PARC. He needs to have coax reinstalled as old coax was shorted.

Lance WNØL mentioned a letter Darlene NØLOP got from Rick's Electronic Parts for the homebrewer's. They will donate 5% to any club who has a person buying parts.

Pot Drawing: \$8.65 in the pot. Joe, KØNEB was drawn. Not present.

Dave said next month we have a program on Digital Communications by Bill KAØVXK. Linda WØZIP said the Ashland group is going to have a booth at the Saunders County Fair and wanted to know if we want to help. Jim Sweeney KBØDYY said Jim Hitz KCØDVG would be the contact.

Adjourned at 8:08.

Program: Bob Kirchmann, WØICE gave a short program on Bluetooth Devices and Amateur Radio.

Two Will Receive Awards at Luncheon

The Chapter 210 Luncheon and Annual Meeting is Thursday August 27th at the Old Country Buffet in Omaha.

The following PARC members will receive awards:

Carl Johnson WØGAJ licensed 60 Years.

Gene Martin WØUJI licensed 55 Years

Congratulations!!!

**Joe Eisenberg,
KØNEB was
pulled.**

**He was NOT present.
Oh No!
The pot remains with
\$8.65.**



Membership Dues:

Dues are \$10 for first member of a family and \$3 each additional member per calendar year if paid between Jan. 1 and March 1. Dues are prorated at \$1 per month after March 1 for new members. Previous year member's dues remain \$10 whenever they are paid. Life membership is \$200.

SEND TO:

**Sharon Martens
2316 E. First St.
Fremont, NE 68025**

PICNIC TIME!

Our Annual PARC
Picnic is approaching.

Sunday
September 27, 2009
5:30 p.m.

The Theophilus Home
507 E. Third

Bring a side dish.
Meat & Drinks
Furnished

Pioneer Amateur Radio Club Report - August, 2009

Savings.....	\$ 130.68
Checking.....	\$ 1,040.01
Petty Cash.....	\$.90
Total	\$ 1,171.59
Income:	
Flea Mkt Food.....	\$ 165.40
Flea Mkt	\$422.00
(Both clear profit after expenses)	
Total Income.....	\$587.40
Expenses:	
Club Newsletter	\$27.00
Total Expenses	\$ 27.00

- **This Month — Hero's / Gambinos**
- **CLUB MEETING: August 28, 2009**
- **Supper at 6:30 Meeting at 7:30**



www.k0jfn.com

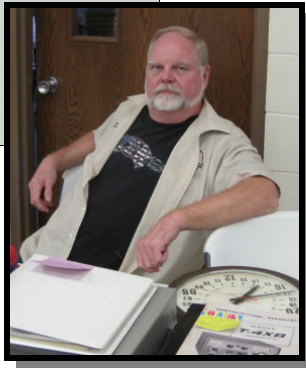
Wow, this is the greenest August we can remember for a long time. I guess that means fall is coming around again it is time to check out our antenna systems before winter.

Several hams have asked about nets in Nebraska, so I decided to check the ARRL Net Directory and get an idea how many nets are still operating.

Nets or networks are a directed operation, at a given time, on a specific frequency, where interested operators can get together to pass information in an organized manner, with a net control.

There are about as many different kinds of nets as there are hams available to run them and check into them. Some 2 meter nets, like our PARC ARES Wednesday night net exist as a training aid, so operators can practice being a net control operator and learn how to check in to a net session. The Nebraska HF traffic nets have been around forever and were used to relay messages to the various Nebraska towns, at a time before 2 meter FM and Internet email became available.

Antennas & Stuff



One very stormy night, back in 1963, my elmer, Tom, KØJFN, asked me to ride along on a "flood patrol".

I was a new novice operator and had only known rag chewing on 80, and 40 meter, CW with my 807 tube transmitter, using a straight key and my Hallicrafters S-107 blooper receiver. I wasn't ready for "EMCOM" mobile operation yet. Tom had a nice setup, with a Swan single band 75 meter tube type transceiver in his station wagon. There was severe flooding in northern Dodge county that night and we were asked, by the Army Corps of Engineers, to check for flash flooding along the creeks and rivers. We were to report in on 3.982 MHz to the net. The frequency, 3.982 MHz was, and still is, the Nebraska 75 meter net gathering place, much like 3.970 MHz is the Iowa net frequency (*Ed note: as in Whatcom County, WA*)

I was in for a rude awakening when the static charge built up on Tom's huge 73 meter mobile antenna with the big loading coil in the middle. The Swan radio had the tank circuit coils near the right rear part of the cabinet, right next to my left leg. The static build up caused a corona to glow in and around the components. Well, this eerie blue glow got brighter and brighter, until—BANG!! It flashed over to the chassis.

Well, I was learning about HF radio the hard way! Hi! Tom said that was normal during severe thunderstorm with a mobile rig.

The information sent to the net was relayed on to the Army and it worked out very well. There were several mobile units out that night and the net control operator kept track of all of it, in a very efficient and orderly manner.

So nets are a good thing, if they are handled properly and make good places to meet with friends and exchange weather information. Check out the following list for a few of the active Nebraska nets on the HF bands.
73 de KØSW

Nebraska morning phone net
3.982 MHz—07:30 AM, CDST—daily
Nebraska Cornhusker net
3.982 MHz—12:30 PM, CDST—daily
Nebraska 40 meter net
7.282 MHz—01:00 PM, CDST—daily
Nebraska Storm net
3.982 MHz—06:30 PM, CDST—daily
WØIRZ Memorial ARES net
9.982 MHz—08:30 AM, CDST—Sunday
Chapter 25 QCWA net
3.982 MHz—08:30 AM, CDST—Saturday

OMMRS Exercise

(Continued from Page 1)

The OMMRS exercise started at 9:00 and we were ready to go at 8:50. The exercise was the pre air show drill at Offutt AFB and is designed to check out the equipment and for training of the operators. FAMC is not involved with the event but we wanted to make sure that the equipment was working ok and we need the training too. Another objective was to define areas of concern and improvement.

Opportunities for improvement:

There was a delay with opening the file cabinet where the equipment is stored. During a real event, disaster, or lockdown security may be very busy elsewhere.

Access to emergency power: There are no red electrical outlets for generator power in room 2210 so if there were a power failure we would be down. Having a couple of 12-volt batteries to run the radios would be a solution.

Phone lines: Two phone lines with phones in the back of the room set up for in house use within the hospital would be a definite plus during a real event.

The exercise went smoothly and we shut down the equipment and secured it and departed at 10:00 am.

Regards, Mel Cunningham KØVLA

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President—Dave Theophilus Secretary—Darlene Hoffman
V. President—Bob Kirchmann Treasurer—Sharon Martens

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Joe Roberts, Larry Martens, Sandy Cunningham
+ 2 Officers

Committee Chairs

Field Day—Larry Martens	Publicity—Kiel Eltiste
Flea Market—Rich Mehaffey	Education—Steve Benke
Picnic—Dave Theophilus	Net Manager—John Beranek
Christmas Party—Darlene Hoffman	ARES Mgr.—Dave Theophilus
Hospitality—Sharon Martens	Technical—Carl Johnson

11th Annual FLEA MARKET

Boyer Valley Amateur Radio Club

Mondamin Community Center
200 Maple St. Mondamin, IA

September 20, 2009
8 a.m. to noon

Tables \$4.00 Admission \$2.00

Raffle Tickets \$1.00 Ea. Or 6 for \$5.00

Drawings Every Half Hour for Prizes
Grand Prize: Dual Band HT

Commercial Vendor: D&L Antenna

Breakfast and Lunch Served

For Info: John Pixley ABØVX ab0vx@arrl.net
www.bvarc.net

MFJ Acquires Cushcraft

On August 7, 2009, MFJ Enterprises announced they had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies effective July 31.

According to MFJ, Cushcraft—makers of HF/HF/UHR vertical, beam and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community—will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, NH.

“We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies,” said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. “This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source”.

MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000 the company also owns Ameritron, Mirage and Vectronics. Jue said the Cushcraft line will bring more than 50 new products to MFJ’s Amateur Radio product line. “We will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas name long into the future.

Cushcraft Amateur Radio antenna product customers will appreciate the continued and expected top—quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi,” said Jue.

The 120 page 2010 MFJ catalog will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line. MFJ has set up a special customer support line—662-323-5803—to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services.