

PARC News

January, 2010

Volume 20 Issue 1



Consider Contributing For A Great Cause

By Dave Theophilus from Steve Benke

ANY SOLDIER

At the January meeting we will be having a guest do a program for us. Sherry Greenway from Any Soldier will be there. There was an article in the Tribune on Dec 10th explaining what she does and who she does it for. She has already sent 550 gifts to The 19th Engineer Battalion of the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. I thought this would be a good opportunity for us to do something good for the men and women serving overseas and



Dave's Time

I hope that everybody enjoyed the Christmas and New Year's holidays even if you were forced to adjust travel plans due to all the snow and cold. Talk about an old fashioned winter! We still have plenty of winter and possible snowmelt flooding to get through before spring, but the Storm Spotter Training has already been scheduled. It is set for March 24 at 7 PM at Christensen Field in Fremont. It is also PARC's turn to co-sponsor the training with Region 5/6 Emergency Management. You will hear more about this annual event, as we get closer to March.

If you are looking for a contest you might try the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes on January 23-25. Historically I don't think there has been a lot of activity in our area in this contest, but give a listen and maybe you will be surprised. Check KC9BQA's VHF blog at: <http://kc9bqa.com/> for more details. That is where I also learned that the popular DX Sherlock real-time propagation maps can now be found at a slightly different address of: <http://www.vhfdx.info/index.html>

For the upcoming PARC meeting on Friday, January 22, Steve, KF1ØMS has lined up an excellent program that will also give us an opportunity to help some well-deserving people. Look for more on that in this issue and also in an email that I will send out.

See you at the PARC meeting on Friday!

Dave T. WØNRW

maybe get a little publicity for ham radio at the same time. I have contacted Deb Jacobson, who did an article sometime back, about ham radio for the Tribune. Maybe she and Steve KFØMS will be there to do something for the Tribune. I am not going to tell Sherry what we are going to do. I thought it would be good for each of us to bring something for her to send. If we hide it till she does her program and then each get up and put something in the box, I was hoping it would be a pleasant surprise for her. We do have to be careful of what we send. Here is a list of things that are recommended.

- Skin lotions
- Travel/overnight bags W/shampoos
- Pony tail holders (black or brown)
- Manicure/pedicure sets
- Brush sets
- Board and computer games
- Socks W/ no logo on them
- Shower shoes (flip flops)
- Cup sets W/ hot chocolate mix
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Stationery W/ pens
- Mouth wash/dental floss
- Books (not religious)
- Shaving kit (no aerosol cans)
- Gloves (black or brown)
- Flashlights W/batteries
- Sports memorabilia letters

State Convention Approaching

The ARRL NE State Convention will be held on March 20, 2010 at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln. The program includes Bob Allison, WB1GCM from ARRL HQ giving a view of the ARRL laboratory, Joe Dawson, KBØLQR showing us how to construct a tower safely and Jon Morris, KAØJGG, NE Section Emergency Communications Coordinator speaking on emergency communications.

PARC Minutes November 20, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Dave Theophilus WØNRW at 7:30 p.m. 19 people were present. Everyone introduced themselves with if they are a veteran in the service and which branch.

Minutes were approved as printed in PARC News .

Treasurer’s report approved as printed in PARC News.

Motion to pay bills made by Rich Mehaffey KBØARZ. John Beranek KCØKKE seconded.

Lance Hoffman WNØL paid the internet service for our website for a year.

Sharon Martens KBØTVB suggested \$100. each to Lance and Steve Benke KFØMS for contribution for their respective repeaters. Sharon made motion and Jane Mehaffey KBØZUN seconded. Motion passed.

Hospitality: Sharon said nothing new. We are glad to see Lois Roberts, YL of Joe Roberts WAØSTV, back and moving around.

Field Day June 26-27, 2010: We have a chance for the North Bend church as we used to do. Larry Martens KØSW wants to know if we want to do what we used to do. Larry said we need everyone to run the radios and help put up stuff and get insurance. Lance will get a rider on our insurance for that day.

Flea Market July 17, 2010 in North Bend is for sure.

Picnic September 26, 2010. Tentatively same location & time.

Christmas Party: December 5, 2009: Wooden Windmill 6 p.m. Steve made motion to supply prizes for Christmas party. Joe said not to exceed \$75. Seconded by Mel Cunningham KØVLA.

Net Control: John said Net control sign up sheet is going around. The 2 meter net out of Wisconsin is being worked.

ARES: OMMRS antenna is installed at Three Rivers but no radios yet. Kathy Kneifl no longer works there. Dave to contact Three Rivers to see who our contact will now be. Mary Joseph tells Dave she will be getting him the radios.

OMMRS Training November 17 – Mel and Dave T went to this, but not very organized.

NWS Skywarn Recognition Day December 4-5, 2009 6 p.m Friday night to 6 p.m. Saturday night. Geri Norris N5RIG is looking for people to operate.

Old Business: None

New Business: Voting for 2010 officers. Joe nominated Dave for

President and Steve seconded. Bob Kirchmann WØICE sent an e-mail to Dave that he hurt his back. Steve nominated Bob for VP. Sharon nominated Darlene as Secretary and Steve nominated Sharon as Treasurer. Steve Benke will replace Kiel Eltiste as the Publicity chair. He is not longer an active ham. Sharon and Jane will replace Darlene as Christmas party chair. Joe Roberts will remain on the Board of Directors.

Dave sent Bill Pook, Region 5-6 Director, an e-mail. Bill brought a check for \$250. to Dave today to be used for anything we see fit. Sharon will send a

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



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

thank you for the grant. Bill has plans for spotter training for March. He wants 300 people – expanded training with exhibits, etc. We also talked about having a class at same time for people who want to get a license. We discussed how the money should be spent and Steve said we must be sure to document how we use it. Sharon said last time the \$100. was used for repeater upkeep. Sharon suggested we use the \$200 for each of the two repeaters upkeep and Lance suggested that the DVD for Hero’s be funded by this also. All were in agreement.

No regular meeting in December because of our Christmas Party.

Pot Drawing: Geri Norris’ named pulled. Not present. The pot will continue.

Dave presented the new DVD player to the manager of Hero’s as appreciation for their hospitality through the years.

Adjourn: 8:04 p.m.

Steve passed out antennas to everyone present that were surplus from Valmont.

Program: Lance Hoffman WNØL, presented the K5D Desecheo DXpedition video.

**Pioneer Amateur Radio Club
Treasurer's Report
Dec 2009 -January 2010**

Savings.....	\$130.68
Checking	661.91
Total	\$792.59

Income:

Region 5/6.....	\$250.00
Dues	46.00
Total Income.....	\$296.00

Expenses:

November Newsletter	\$ 29.00
VCR/DVD Player (Hero)	64.94
Web Site Fee.....	65.77
Repeater Fund (Lance).....	100.00
Repeater Fund.(Steve).....	100.00
Trophy Case Ham of the Year).....	20.00
Christmas Party (Darlene).....	75.00
Check Order (bank).....	18.50
Picnic Meats, buns, Cups	20.21
Field Day Water and Pop.....	17.99
Total Expenses.....	\$511.41

- This Month — Hero's / Gambinos
- CLUB MEETING: January 22, 2010
- Supper at 6:30 Meeting at 7:30



***The Tribune article that prompted Steve to contact Sherry Greenway is below.
Dave T.***

Woman seeks help with troop donations

*By Tammy Real-McKeighan/Fremont Tribune
Thursday, Dec 10, 2009 - 10:22:30 am CST*

Sherry Greenway has a heart for soldiers.

And she's been pouring her heart in to an organization to help them for more than three years. That program is called Any Soldier Inc.

Formerly of Texas and Kansas, Greenway has sent gifts to military personnel overseas for some time.

Now, the Fremont woman hopes the community will work with her to send gifts to 550 soldiers in the 19th Engineer Battalion of the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. While it's too late to send Christmas gifts, Greenway has selected a birthday theme and hopes area residents will donate presents by Jan. 15 so she can mail them by February.

Donated items could include a host of things from socks ("They go through a pair of socks very fast," she said) and gloves to a variety of music CDs and comedy DVD movies.

Greenway invites area residents to browse the Web site www.anysoldier.com to see what items can and cannot be sent.

No pornography can be sent. Neither can any religious books unless such a book is specifically requested by one of the soldiers, she said. Donors also cannot send any item pertaining to pork. Even a picture of a pig is an insult to the people in Afghanistan, she said.

Greenway added that 150 of the soldiers in the battalion are women. While they can't have candles, lotions are permitted.

She also suggests that donors attach a birthday card to their gift and write a letter, addressing it to "Dear Warrior" or "Dear Soldier." Many of the soldiers simply want letters of support, she said.

Drop-off points for the gifts are: Jamas Party Shop, 88 W. Sixth St.; Staffco Employment Services, 415 N. Main St.; and KHUB-KFMT radio station, 118 E. Fifth St.; all in Fremont.

Any Soldier was started by Marty and Sue Horn after

their son, Sgt. Brian Horn, went to Iraq in 2003.

Knowing that his unit, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, was living under very rough conditions, the couple sent him care packages as often as they could. They wanted to help other soldiers serving with his son, so Marty, himself a 20-year Army veteran, set up the Any Soldier Web site. That site was expanded to include other branches of the service. As of this month, it has served 1.4 million troops.

Greenway, who has a stepson in the military, discovered Any Soldier after her mother learned about it through a television documentary. Greenway said she began reading one of the soldier's blog sites.

"Each one of these soldiers will write a blog about what they need and what they're doing and what they want. I got on there and one of them touched my heart," she said.

She learned the soldier wanted beef jerky and socks.

"I sent it to him and he sent me a thank you. I wrote him a letter and said 'You don't have to thank me. You're protecting me,'" she said.

The two began corresponding.

After that a couple of the soldiers even came to her home for dinner.

She sent Christmas ornaments for the children of a serviceman overseas. She once sent 28 blankets to servicemen in Afghanistan.

Her voice cracks with emotion as she talks about some of the conditions the soldiers deal with -- living in the cold, in the mountains, worrying about bombs and bullets coming at them.

"I listen to what some of these men and women have been through and I can't imagine it," she said. "I gripe because I have to drive six blocks to Walmart and they walk six miles to get running water."

Greenway hopes area residents will join in the effort to support the servicemen and women.

"They are our security. They're out there representing us. They're fighting so I don't have to in my own backyard," she said. "Every American should be able to do something."

For more information, contact Greenway at sgreenway@neb.rr.com.

PIONEER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Fremont, NE

Darlene Hoffman—Editor Ph: 402-628-2038
2411 County Rd 15 e-mail: darleneh@futuretk.com
Colon, NE 68018 Call: NOLOP

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Larry Martens, Sandy Cunningham, Joe Roberts
+ 2 Officers

Committee Chairs

Field Day—Larry Martens	Publicity—Steve Benke
Flea Market—Rich Mehaffey	Education—Steve Benke
Picnic—Dave Theophilus	Net Manager—John Beranek
Christmas Party—Sharon Martens and Jane Mehaffey	ARES Mgr.—Dave Theophilus

Officers Are In For Another Year!

Our officers for 2010 are a repeat of 2009. Dave Theophilus WØNRW will remain as president. Bob Kirchmann WØICE is Vice President. Darlene Hoffman NØLOP is secretary and Sharon Martens KBØTVB remains as Treasurer. Well, why not, I hope we all seem to know what we're doing.

Joe Roberts WAØSTV volunteered for another 3 year stint on the Board of Directors. That moves Larry Martens KØSW and Sandy Cunningham KBØTVA each up a slot.

There are a couple of changes to the committee chairs. The Christmas Party committee will be

Sharon Martens and Jane Mehaffey KBØZUN. And Publicity will be taken over by Steve Benke KFØMS because Kiel Eltiste is no longer an active ham. And as you see by our program scheduled for Friday, Steve is active as the Publicity Director already. Way to go, Steve. The remaining committee chairs all stay the same. (See above for full schedule).

Here's hoping we have a good 2010 for all our events. They are always fun.

It's looks like we will be planning for a bigger Weather Spotters Training event for which we are the hosts coming up very quickly.

Does This Kinda Sound Familiar—Like Maybe This Year?

From Art Zygielbau, KØAIZ, ARRL NE Section Mgr.

Our Section Traffic Manager, Mike, NFØN, sent me an interesting email which quoted from the January 1942 issue of QST. In late October, early November a heavy snow and freeze took out "all communications lines in the eastern part of the State." Here are some extracts from the article:

"Fremont was completely isolated from the outside world for several hours. First communication lines were established by W9OED, Fremont. This was accomplished on 1.75-Mc. Phone. W9OED called "CQ Omaha, Urgent Traffic," was answered by W9OYB, Omaha, who in turn called up W9KVT, Omaha, on the land line and informed him OED was calling him. W9KVT contacted the Associated Press office, and the night news for the Fremont Morning Guide was transmitted by VKT to OED. Immediately following completion of this effort. Immediately following completion of this BNC, Omaha, called OED, Fremont, for traffic west to Grand

effort, BNC, Omaha, called OED, Fremont, for traffic west to Grand Island for the A. T. & T. When contact was finally established in round-about way, BNT in the meantime had gotten into Grand Island via Kansas City, Julesburg, Colorado and North Platte.

"The following morning, lines still being out of order, OED scheduled BNC for United Press news for the Fremont Daily Tribune. The October 31st news was handled at OED's with the assistance of RCH and his XYL who copied the press in shorthand. Saturday morning on the BNC schedule, the local newspapers furnished a stenographer and the press transmissions were handled without a hitch.

"The Pioneer Radio Club of Nebraska are now all building 56- and 112-Mc. Equipment, so that if and when another call comes for amateur radio assistance, they will be more than ready to fill the bill." It's been nearly 70 years since that event. We're still needed.