

PARC News

April, 2010

Volume 20 Issue 4



LARC Receives Award

On April 9, 2010, the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club received the "2010 Nebraska Impact Award" in the Outstanding Volunteer Group of the Year" category from the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission. The letter announcing the award is attached. It is important to note that the decision to make this award occurred before the now-famous telephone outage.

Here is the language from the nomination for the award:

"When all Else Fails" describes the nature of the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club. For example, snow storms on December 9 and December 23 caused the usual volunteer drivers for Tabitha's Meals-on-Wheels program to cancel. Tabitha asked Lincoln/Lancaster Emergency Management for help and the 4-wheel drivers associated with the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club (LARC) were activated. Or after the Christmas day blizzard, LARC was again activated to move key medical personnel to and from local hospitals and care centers. Or on March 15 when a computer failure in the 9-1-1 center severed communications with Lincoln Fire & Rescue and club members were called at 2:30 AM to provide critical dispatch information.

Emergency Management called out the tornado spotters five times in 2009. All spotters are FCC licensed amateur radio operators who received annual training by the National Weather Service. In 2009, 184 'ham' operators were trained.

On a day-to-day basis, 198 Club members provided 4,270 volunteer hours to the community in 2009 by providing communications when asked, 28 times in 2009. They helped with the Lincoln Marathon (33 volunteers " 174 hours), the Nebraska State Fair (89 volunteers " 1,923 hours), the Cornhusker State Games (83 volunteers " 919 volunteer hours). They helped the University Sertoma Club with their Oak Creek bike fund-raiser and KFOR's Operation Santa Claus. They monitored the course for the annual CROP walk, the YWCA Triathlon and Lincoln's annual TrailTrek.

The 300 member Lincoln Amateur Radio Club stands ready to provide communications at any time.

Also, next Monday, April 19, the Mayor of Lincoln will present a proclamation thanking the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club for their service to the community. I haven't seen the proclamation, yet. But I will forward it when I get it.

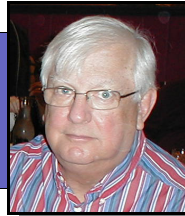
73, Art KØAIZ

I'll lead off with some OMMRS news. After the March PARC meeting where I displayed the three OMMRS amateur radios, I took them to the Three Rivers Health Department where they will reside. The coax from the antenna terminated near the ceiling tile about 8 feet off the ground. However, Lance, WNØL offered up a piece of coax for an extension so that installation will be available if needed.

On Saturday morning, April 17, Mel, KØVLA and Steve, KFØMS activated the OMMRS equipment at FAMC and participated in a test of the OMMRS packet equipment. I am hoping to have them give a more extensive report at the April PARC meeting.

On Thursday and Friday afternoons on April 22 and 23 from 130 PM to 230 PM we will be conducting our annual Amateur Radio demonstration at the North Bend Elementary School. I will be sending out more information later this week via email on the operating schedule, frequencies, etc.

When setting up an antenna to try and receive moon-bounce signals from Arecibo Observatory on Friday, I was searching through my "stuff" for an N connector adapter. The good news is that I finally found it, along with a soldering gun and solder that have been lost for about 5 years. The bad news is it was all for naught since the Arecibo crew had an amplifier go bad on them, so instead of 400 watts they could only run 35 watts. Only peo-



Dave's Time

WØNRW

ple

with first class stations, of which I am not included, heard them. I was gone during their "window" on Saturday and Sunday, so I am not yet aware of how they did.

And lastly, thank you to everybody who was able to help and/or attend the Spotter Training and Expo on March 24. It was a great crowd. Bill Pook from Region 5/6 Emergency Management was very pleased. Bill also had very nice words about Amateur Radio in the April 17 edition of the *Fremont Tribune*. The bar has been set high for us to perform in the event of an actual emergency.

See you at the PARC meeting on Friday, April 23.

Dave T. WØNRW

Jim Sweeney won the POT Drawing
He got \$3.86. The total in the pot

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

MARCH PARC MINUTES March 26, 2010

Meeting called to order by Dave Theophilus, WØNRW, at 7:30 p.m. Everyone introduced themselves. Dave welcomed 2 newcomers. Garrison Womsat KDØAFO and his father, Virgil KBØBW.

Approval of minutes as printed in PARC News.

Approval of Treasurer's report as printed in PARC News. We have a \$10. donation from Jim Kilby KGØRD for Field Day

A motion to pay the bills was made by Jane Mehaffey KBØZUN, Mel Cunningham KØVLA seconded.

Hospitality: Nothing.

Field Day June 26-27, 2010 in North Bend: Larry Martens KØSW said the Field Day shirts are Navy blue t-shirts. And there are hats, pins and coffee mugs also. Larry will order a batch next month.

Flea Market July 17, 2010 in North Bend: Rich Mehaffey, KBØARZ, said we have another table from the LARC Flea Market. Rich is handing out flyers. Rich the cap guy is going to be at our Flea market.

Picnic September 26, 2010: Is at the Theophilus home.

Christmas Party: Nothing.

Net Control: John Beranek KBØKKE thanked everyone for helping. John is passing another sign up sheet.

ARES: OMMRS antenna installed at Three Rivers, radios will be installed next week.

Spotter Training at 7 p.m. March 24 at Christensen Field. We had a great turnout. Thanks to everybody who helped. Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium is in Lincoln March 27.

New Business: Flyers passed out on Ashland Flea Market on May 1, 2010.

Thursday & Friday, April 22 & 23 for the School Interest

Groups at North Bend Elementary for 5th and 6th graders. They have various groups – usually about 6 different activities to teach the kids.

Lance got a card from Sean that while moving his office he found the plaque was wrong, phone not CW and he sent a correction.

April 15th is the deadline for applying for 4 days expenses for the ARRL Wireless Institute. They take science teachers to teach them wireless.

Our Blue Folder needs updating before we distribute them again.

The contest this weekend is CQWX from now till Sunday evening.

Pioneer Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report April, 2010

Savings.....	\$ 130.68
Checking.....	\$ 765.94
Petty Cash.....	\$ 20.42
Total.....	\$ 917.04
Income:	
Dues.....	\$ 10.00
Field Day Donation.....	\$ 10.00
10% Drawing Pot.....	\$.42
Total Income.....	\$ 20.42
Expenses:	
Newsletter.....	\$ 26.00
Total Expenses.....	\$ 26.00

Old Business: Friends of Library Book Sale is April 9-11 at the City Auditorium.

POT: Jim Sweeney KBØDYY won the pot of \$3.86. The entire pot is \$4.28. The remainder went to the club treasury.

Adjourned: at 7:51 p.m.

Program: Dave T. Gave an "OMMRS update and display of equipment".

Saturday, April 17

Amateur Radio Article In Fremont Tribune

The article in the *Fremont Tribune* at:
http://fremonttribune.com/news/local/article_e9db09ee-49e5-11df-9dc8-001cc4c03286.html

comes about because of the great work the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club did during the recent telephone outage.

The reporter was talking to Bill Pook, Region 5/6 Emergency Manager, and the subject of communications came up. Bill referred the reporter to me as president of the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club.

There are several minor errors in the article and some things I wished he had included, but it still may result in some people contacting us about amateur radio.

Dave T. WØNRW

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

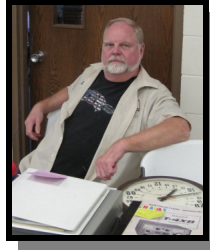


- This Month — Hero's / Gambino's
- CLUB MEETING: April 23, 2010
- Supper at 6:30 Meeting at 7:30



www.k0jfn.com

Antennas & Stuff



Spring has finally sprung, thank goodness. Seems like the long, hard winter is over and my antennas sure took a beating.

The slopers both had broken halaryards and burned up end insulators. I never gave much thought to the ropes until they broke and the snow was 5 feet deep, out by the poles.

The antennas did work somewhat even laying in the snow drifts but not as well as they did when they were up where they belonged. After the drifts froze hard enough to walk on, I was able to replace the broken ropes and was surprised to find the end insulators burned up and melted. I had used the linear amplifier on 160 meters a couple of times, and I guess the insulators could not handle 1,000 watts of power that the amp put out on CW.

These antennas are what they call "half slopers". Which is a quarter wave length of wire fed with the coax center conductor and the shield connected to the tower as a counterpoise. Kind of like a vertical antenna on a slope fed upside down. These antennas have a maximum voltage point at the end insulator.

I am kind of guessing, but I think the insulators were full of ice and that caused a corona discharge from the high power. It sure did melt the plastic insulators and cracked the ceramic ones. I think the old style, long glass, insulators are probably the best if you can find them, now days.

My 75 meter inverted vee suddenly developed an open coax, at the 40 foot level, on the tower. I can't figure out how the coax could be very neatly cut, at that height, but it is, and no flattening like a diagonal cutter does. I dug out the G5RV Field Day antenna and hung it on the rope for the old inverted vee. Thankfully, I had an extra feedline at the base of the tower to connect it to.

The beams, at the top of the tower, thankfully survived the ice. They were drooping down badly, but straightened out nicely when the ice melted.

Speaking of Field Day, this next meeting will be time to order T shirts and caps and get an idea of who wants to bring what to North Bend. The St. Charles parish has been reserved and we need to make plans to set up.

73 de KØSW

EVARC—Norfolk Fleamarket/Tailgate Party May 8, 2010 9:30 am—4 pm

We will be holding a Flea market/ Tailgate party/Swap Meet on 8 May 2010. Time approx 9:30am—400pm.

Free admission. You will have to bring your own tables. No tables will be provided by EVARC.

This will be outdoors at WA6BRE's QTH. Located at 55422 835th RD.

Ashland AARC Annual Swap Meet

Saturday May 1, 2010 8 a.m.—1 p.m.

Saunders Co. Fairgrounds—Wahoo, NE
1st & South Pine Sts
Hwy 77 to intersection w/ Hwy 92. Go east
on 1st St to South Pine Street

Food and Drink will be available
Pancakes w/ Sausage or Biscuits & Gravy
& More

Admission: \$3 per person or
two people for \$5

Table Fee: \$5. Each with quantity discounts
available for multiple table rental.

Contact Linda Graham, KCØIOQ
for reservations.

Windyacres1331@hotmail.com
402-944-3933

Talk-In Frequency: 145.310-

PIONEER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Fremont, NE

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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

PIONEER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 13th Annual Flea Market

Saturday, July 17, 2010 9 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

St. Charles Parish Center 8th & Locust Sts North Bend, NE

Prize Drawings Every Half Hour Door Prize Drawing at 12:00 p.m.

Admission: \$2.00 Donation at the door

Vendor Set Up at 7:30 am 8' Space w/ Table \$5.

In Advance or \$7 at the door

Food By Darlene's (NØLOP) Diner Free Coffee & Tea

Please send or e-mail your registrations to:

Rich Mehaffey KBØARZ

230 W. 11th St North Bend, NE 68649-4011

Ph: 402-652-3410

Amateur Radio At North Bend Elementary

The Amateur Radio demonstration is on for Thursday and Friday of this week at North Bend Elementary according to Rich and Jane Mehaffey, KBØARZ & KBØZUN.

April PARC Program Is Wrap-Ups From Dave WØNRW

I hope to have brief wrap-ups of the OMMRS drill, an emergency communications meeting I went to on Saturday, and the school demonstration at North Bend for the PARC program on Friday.

Dave T. WØNRW