



Printed Circuit



– February 2011 –

Published by the Southwest Iowa Amateur Radio Club Inc.

SWIARC meets the 4th Thursday of every month at the Loess Hills Red Cross Chapter

Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus

705 N. 16th Street Council Bluffs, IA 51501

<http://www.swiarc.org>

The Action – 2011

Mar 05 McCLELLAND IA Hamfest
Sat 10 mi East & North of C/B
8-2 Vendors incl D&L Antenna

DIRECTIONS: From I-80 exit 8 in IA
Go 5.5 miles East to 270th St
Turn Left (North) and go 3.0 mi
You can almost see the site
Take two lefts to go South some

Mar 09 WX Spotter Training
Tue 7PM, 104 N. Vine, Glenwd IA

Mar 12 Homebrew & QRP – Ashland NE
Sat 11-2 at Bredeaux Pizza

Mar 15 WX Spotter Training
Tue 7PM @ Boystown in W/Omaha

Mar 19 LINCOLN NE Ham Convention
Sat Lancaster Event Center
84th & Havelock

Mar 24 SWIARC Meeting in Co/Blfs
Thur Red X, No. 16th at 'G' St.
7:30

Mar 29 WX Spotter Training
Tue IWCC – Looft Hall
6:30PM (nr I-80 exit 8)

Apr 09 Homebrew & QRP Club mtg
Sat 11-2 in Ashland NE

Apr 28 SWIARC Meeting @ Red X
Thur No. 16th St. @ 'G' Street

Severe Weather Training

The Severe Weather training for Pottawattamie County is scheduled for Iowa Western Community College at the LOOFT Auditorium on March 29th. If you plan to attend, go to the Pottawattamie county website and let us know you're coming. URL is:

<http://pottcounty.com/departments-services/emergency-management/>.

Look to the left of the page for “**Severe Storm Spotter Training 2011**” and **click on that link**. Please pre register by March 22nd, 2011.

Brian Smith will present his annual NWS presentation at 7pm. Just ahead of that, starting at 6:30pm, the procedures for Pottawattamie County EOC weather net operations will be covered.

There will be coffee and some refreshments.

For more information please contact:

Terry Lindsley, ks0L

Terry.lindsley@pottcounty.com

712-328-5777

Additional spotter presentations in the metro area:

March 9th, Mills County Iowa: 104 N. Vine St.

7:00pm, Glenwood, IA

March 14th, Harrison Co. IA: County Engineers Office 301 N. 6th Ave. Logan, IA

March 15th, Douglas County, NE: Boystown music hall, 7:00pm, Omaha, NE.

March 24th, Sarpy County, NE: Fire training facility 7:00PM, Bellevue, NE

SWIARC Minutes 01/27

More people showed up than usual, possibly due to all the publicity for Tom KØAMD's program on Software Defined Radios. Here's the list.

Rick	KE4YQD		
Tom	KØAMD	Steve	NØORU
Jim	WØATU	Joel	NØQEI
Greg	NØGR	Shaun	NØØR
Paul	WØØGXD	Greg	KGØS
Mike	KDØHZF	Ron	NØUCM
& LaVone		Art	KØUWR
Dave	NØJSB	Dennis	WØVJL
Norm	WØØJYD	Rich	WØØZQG
Terry	KSØL	Ed	Schwartz
Boyd	KØLGG	(of Red Cross)	
Robert	KØØMUX	(21)	

It was Rick's first time running the meeting and he hesitated a moment asking for Minutes and Treasurer's Report. (One problem, the December meeting was at Golden Corral buffet restaurant and we didn't have any formalities, thus the last Minutes to approve were from 2 months ago.)

We did approve Minutes of the November meet, and accepted for audit the Treasurer's Report of \$4,924 in the bank. Later, voting to replace our new Treasurer for 2011 who found she couldn't serve, Jim ATU, Greg NØGR, and Dennis VJL were nominated. Paul GXD & Rich ZQG acted as Tellers and reported Jim ATU won the office although the vote was tied until near the end. (All of them willing and capable members. Jim ATU had served in the office before.)

The .82 Repeater

It hums. (Enough! No more jokes about not knowing the words.) The problem only occurs when a signal comes from the remote site out by IWCC, relayed via our 220 link. Various ideas were explored including a new link using 440 (for which we already have a licensed freq) and new 220 equipment because the old stuff is from a modified Cobra 220 crystal radio. (Robert MUX has two (2) ICOM 220 radios for sale.) The problem might be related to a recent theft of copper wire grounds at the IWCC site.

Terry KSØL made a motion to "form a committee to advise and assist the Trustee" for the repeater and in fact, all club owned equipment. (We had a similar effort a year or so ago, but no one showed up for the

committee meeting.) Terry cautioned that he definitely did NOT want to "step on the Trustee's toes" or in any way suggest his efforts were inadequate. At least one club member said he was not bothered by the hum interference, at least for the duration of the cold weather.

The motion was seconded by Shaun (ex ACOGN) NØØR, and passed.

Newsletter

This time it was out before the meeting. Great. Hey, on that article by Dave WØ6SWJ using 30M CW and Grey Line propagation, it says on 10.200. That's a misprint right? The band runs from 10.100 – 10.150. Maybe he meant 10.120.

Field Day 2011

Pres Rick YQD reminded us he is going private for this year's event and would anyone like to run the SWIARC effort. No takers. We discussed the cows at Hitchcock Nature Center, and other sites like Fairmount Park downtown. Asked who might show up, six or seven hands were raised, but again none willing to chair it. Art UWR, who lives downtown, liked the Fairmount Park suggestion. We took a vote, 3 for Hitchcock and 2 for Fairmount downtown. Either one needs to be reserved soon.

Flea Market March 5th

Greg NØGR said D&L Antenna is coming for sure and reiterated the offer of Free Tables to members with the proviso they may be reclaimed at his discretion if we get more paying exhibitors. Tables are \$8 each and include 1 admission.

SWIARC dot org Web Site

Both Rick YQD and Greg NØGR are able to modify the site. They'll add items relating to the Flea Market on the front page.

Under "Correspondence" we had numerous QSL cards for our Station Trustee. He uses KØSWI and middle name 'Pete' to gain additional points in contests. Members may use the call also if you contact the Trustee for permission.

Wednesday Night Net

Terry KSØL explained it's now up to the club to

cont. next page --->

Minutes (cont.)

organize a net Wednesday at 9PM if we want one. (Used to be an ARES net.) No one volunteered to chair it at the meeting, but Terry, Rick YQD, Art UWR, and Greg N0GR said they'd be Net Control once a month or so. The person in charge needs to assign Net Control duties (or do it himself) and report the statistics to an ARRL Net Manager in Iowa each month. Question: When was the last time we had a real emergency around here that required a Net and volunteers? Hmm-m. The 1988 tornado on the North side of town? Looked like Hawaii with so many downed trees and foliage lining the streets. And the Minden IA tornado in either '75 or '76.

Paul GXD said he'd like to clean up a few items in the club constitution. There's an autodial reg. We no longer have an auto-patch. And change the meeting from 7:30 to 7PM. We took a count on that, 8 for and 7 to keep the current meet time.



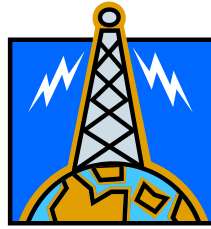
Norm holding his NE license plate

Norm JYD showed the new format license plate for Nebraska. It's dark green, almost black on white. The meeting went a little long considering we had Tom AMD waiting to give the program on his Flex 1500 HF and 6M Software Defined Radio.

Minutes by Richard Swig, WA0ZQG
Assistant to Sec'y

QSL Suprise

By Terry Lindsley, KSØL



Some surprises come via the U.S. Mail like unexpected bills, and a piece of mail I received on Feb. 8th. An envelope from Tucson, AZ from an unfamiliar address. The contents revealed a letter and one of my QSL cards documenting a CW QSO I had made as a novice. The date was Sept. 29th, 1959. The person mailing the card was KØSBV now living in AZ. The letter explained that when his father died (who was also a ham), his QSL collection ended up in the trash because no one knew what to do with it. So Carl was looking at his own collection and decided that people might appreciate getting a bit of history in the mail. I certainly did. It was a thoughtful gesture on his part. He looked me up on QRZ and found me through the call sign change.

I was a sophomore in high school at the time and belonged to the school ham club. I didn't have any equipment of my own at the time (limited budget). The Club had a 50watt cw crystal controlled transmitter (Johnson Adventurer) and an NC-109 National receiver and used a "straight key." I had printed the QSL card design on the back of a postcard so all I had to do was address it. So it was a nice blast out of the past from 50+ years back. It is interesting to see how far the hobby has progressed in that time.

It got me to thinking of my own card collection. It really means something because of the history it is for me. To someone else? Not sure who would care about it beyond myself. Something to think about when wondering why we collect anything. I no longer actively seek QSL cards but do answer requests for cards as needed. It is fun to browse through the book and reminisce about the experiences ham radio has brought me. It was worthwhile to collect them if just for that. After I'm gone, it won't matter anyway.

Emergency Power

by Tom KØAMD

Everyone has probably thought about having backup power to run their rigs. Some take the solar approach and others opt for the generators. I settled for something in between and hopefully this will give readers some ideas for a project of their own.

I started out with a **Deep Cycle Marine** battery. They seem to hold up better to the charge cycles we put them through. Needing something to put the battery in I made a trip to my favorite store, Wally World and found a Battery box with a snap type lid. Wanting to run 12 volt items as well as 110 volt items I had an old 12 volt inverter on hand and thought I would add it to the project. All my radios have been equipped with **Anderson Power** connectors so this project had to have the ability to connect to the Anderson power connectors on the radio. I had a 4-way Anderson connector on hand and used that with 10 gauge wire. Wanting to have some way of connecting all the items together and mount them I looked around and purchased a small plastic tool box and mounted it on top of the battery box.

The tool box allowed me to mount the inverter, a voltmeter, and fuse block inside of it and allowed for the storage of the 4-way Anderson connector that was wired through the fuse block. A 3-way 12 volt cigarette lighter socket was mounted on top of the tool box also.

The fuse block was then connected to the battery with #4 gauge wire that was taken from an inexpensive car jumper device that had stopped working. I added a disconnect on the positive lead to ensure nothing would short out when I stored the unit.

To keep the battery in good condition I added a 12 volt float charger that I purchased at **Harbor Freight**. The charger will monitor the battery and cut off so it will not over charge the battery. If I use the unit and it has been discharged I put it on a battery charger bring it up to full charge then let the float charger keep it topped off.

One drawback to the unit is the weight of the battery. It can be carried but some type of two wheeled cart is better if you have a distance to go with it.

The biggest cost of the unit was the battery which I purchased at **Standard Battery** located at 2604 'N' St. (in So. Omaha) ph. 402) 733-1117. I have found them to be the most reasonable on batteries whether for your car or projects like this. They seem to have every type of battery you could want.

de KØAMD

Overheard at Panera

John KB0QKH and XYL Gloria KC0IHV run 2M SSB to talk to each other mobile on 144.200. John says he also hears other stations in the area, specifically in Neola IA, over by Fremont NE, and Warren N0WF when he's home in North Omaha. 144.200 is the calling freq for SSB. (Like 146.52 for FM mode.)

de The Round Table

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Club officers for 2011 are:

PRESIDENT KE4YQD

Rick KE4YQD @ Hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT KB0QKH

John kb0qkh @ yahoo.com

SECRETARY KD0HVY

Steve Steve.A.Thomas @ HP.com

TREASURER W0ATU

Jim W0ATU @ YAHOO.com

STATION TRUSTEE K0LWU

Russ K0LWU @ Cox.net

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in radio. Dues are \$15 / calendar year.

Would you like to submit an article to the SWIARC Newsletter?



We encourage your involvement. Share your stories, wit, knowledge, experience, and upcoming events here. Submit your articles at a SWIARC Meeting, or by the 10th of each month to steve.a.thomas@hp.com or SWIARC PO Box 661 Council Bluffs, Iowa 51502. Please use this address to also make requests for newsletter re-prints and your feedback of the newsletter.

Happy Scanning!