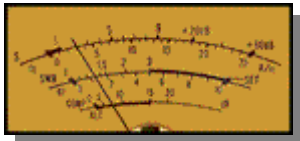




Meetings:

The Board of Directors meet at 7:30pm on the second Thursday of the month. All members are welcome to attend.

The General Membership Meeting is held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30pm in the Bellevue Masonic Lodge dining hall, 1908 Franklin St. Directly west of Washington Park on Franklin St.



Special points of interest:

- * Sarpy EOC part 4—p5
- * Ham Class—p6
- * Club Meeting notes p 7
- * Board meeting notes —p 8
- * Local nets—page 9
- * Local Get-togethers—page 10

Spark Gap

Volume VXIV Issue 9

September 2005

Newsletter of the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club (BARC)
7518 Chandler Hills Dr., Bellevue, NE. 68147-2108
Established in 1959 and Celebrating 46 Years as a Club

Thank You All from KBØOUO

On Behalf of the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club Officers and Board, I want to express our appreciation to everyone who volunteered their time to assist with the Arrows to Aerospace Parade, Offutt Open House and Air Show, and the MS 50 Bike Ride. This was a challenging weekend for the club members with three events. BARC wants to express thanks to all the RACES, REACT, and other non-club members from the metro area that came out to assist the club and make all the events a success. Thank You, all of you who volunteered for any or all of the events. For the first time in a while, we had enough volunteers to cover all the streets for the Parade adequately, and the Bellevue Police Department has expressed their Thanks to us for the assistance and for the professionalism shown by the Volunteers. (continued on page 4)



September 2005 Birthdays

Jeff Reynolds	NEØDX
Joe Mastandrea	N2DLY
Andrew Dandridge	KCØBDX
Gary Kroll	KCØQYL
Joan Bellairs	KCØDTK
Mitchell Miller	KCØMXV
Frank Taylor	AAØZP
Mark Conner	N9XTN
Roy Gertig	NØRG



The Bellevue Amateur Radio Club (BARC)
Proudly Operating the WØWYV Repeater on 147.39+
And Maintaining the following Web Page Addresses:

Spark Gap Home Page—<http://www.qsl.net/w0wyv/sparkgap/index.htm>
 BARC Home Page—<http://www.qsl.net/w0wyv/barc.htm>

Current Dues Schedule			
Full Membership	\$12.00	Family Membership	\$18.00
Student membership	\$6.00	First Time Ticket Holder no charge first year	

The **Spark Gap** is the Official newsletter of the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club and is published monthly. It is distributed the first week of the month prior to the regular meeting. **In order to facilitate this, the deadline for inputs is the last week of each month (I.E. last week of April for the May issue.)**

The minutes for all Executive Board meetings of the B.A.R.C. are available for viewing at the scheduled business meetings of the club. If you are interested in seeing the minutes, ask the Secretary to see the minutes at that time.

Current B.A.R.C. Officers			
President	Ladonna Clark	KBØOUO	Ladmclark@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Joe Mastandrea	N2DLY	n2dly@qsl.net
Secretary	Robert McFarland	WØODX	bobmcf@cox.net
Treasurer	Tom Huber	WDØBFO	
Property Mgr.	Gary Kroll	KC0QYL	KC0QYL@msn.com

Current Permanent Committees			
Spark Gap Editor	Dar Piatt	W9HZC	w9hzc@cox.net
Asst. Editor			
Asst. Editor	Tom Huber	WDØBFO	
SG Web page	Dar Piatt	W9HZC	
Club Web Page	Tom Huber	WDØBFO	
Education	Bruce Reitan	KBØRZK	Bdreitan@cox.net
Repeater	Bill Venter	KGØAR	Trustee
	Tom Huber	WDØBFO	
	Larry Bailey	WØPYA	Tech.
Social	Joan Bellairs	KCØDTK	
Courtesy Committee	John Sheffield	N4OWG	n4owg@arrl.net
Recruiting/Marketing	Ladonna Clark	KBØOUO	Ladmclark@yahoo.com
Additional Standing Committees:	Joe Mastandrea	N2DLY	
Events/Social Committee	TBA		

"The Contest Continues"

Yes, the 'submit an article to the Spark Gap' and qualify for one free years membership to the club is being repeated this year.

Remember, this is **your** news letter. If there is no input from the members then the pages will go blank.

We have members with a variety of experiences, QRP, DX, Echo-Link, Section Mgr., ARES EC, Officer Reports, Field Day, Antennas, R.C.ing, Home brew, Operations, Operating modes, Satellites,

Your interests, computers, propagation, bitch's about the club, do a radio reviews, mobile operations, just about anything somewhat related to the hobby.

We have had numerous people say "I could do this" but just never seem to get anything for publishing. I'm are not asking for a 10 page report in engineering detail but simple ½ page or full page article on any subject.

If you have ANY ideas that would help us in this area PLEASE let us know.

E-mail the Editor at
w9hzc@cox.net with any article.

Or snail mail it to:

W9HZC (Dar Piatt)
10532 Larimore Circle
Omaha, NE 68134

OK Folks, the year is half over, need those articles now.. Dar...



QRP Notes From Dar.

Rock-Mite



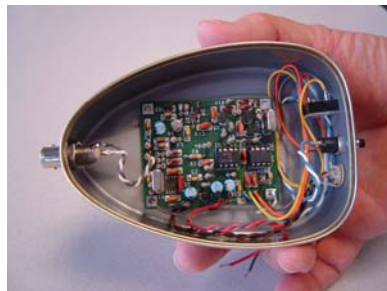
The Rock-Mite is a crystal-controlled direct-conversion transceiver operating on 7040 KHz, the North American 'watering-hole' for QRP activity, or 14060 KHz for the 20M version. The 80M version operates on 3579 or 3686 KHz.



Just for fun, I mounted mine in a 'HAM' can! Well! It is a HAM radio, isn't it?

You can order your own 'Rock-Mite from Small

Wonder Labs at <http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/> For only \$27.00 including shipping. It took about 4 hours to build this while watching T.V.



Want to know more about QRP? Ask your Spark Gap Editor, W9HZC..

Or visit the Midwest HomeBrewer's & QRP Group at <http://www.qsl.net/hbqrp>.

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Paul M. Segal W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE... never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL... offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE... with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY... slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED... radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

PATRIOTIC... station and skill always ready for service to country and community

(Cover story continued)

Since there were several incidents which kept all of us on our toes before and after the parade, the training and professionalism of all of you showed just how much our services can be counted on to assist in keeping the public safe and assisting in getting emergency services to the needed place.

The reports to me about the activities all of the Amateur Radio Operators and REACT volunteers performed at the Air show have been extremely positive. Again all of the volunteers put in two very long days in heat and humidity, helping the medical staff, being extra eyes, ears and helping hands, and locating those lost parents! We all know the kids know where they are, it's those "adults" who just don't get the right signals, times, and wander away from the kids! :-) Good job on staying the course, when the storm blew in and helping where you were needed on Sunday!

As to all the volunteers who made the early morning drive to Waterloo, and the three or more volunteers, who then also managed to have enough energy to go and assist at the Air Show Sunday afternoon, Thanks for supporting a very worthwhile Charity with your time and equipment. For those of you who have never done a MS Bike Ride, I can't begin to tell you how much the MS Director and Board appreciate our coming out to assist with communications, and Health and Safety of the Riders. This was the first time I have been able to participate, and the warm welcome we get, and the praise that the MS Society Board members and volunteers give the club, tells me that they appreciate each and every volunteer from our club that comes out to assist. All of the volunteers, both past and present have built a great relationship with them with the enthusiasm and professionalism each of you brings to the event every time. For that professionalism and especially the enthusiasm (and it's hard to be enthusiastic at that time of the morning for some of us!) the BARC Board and Officers want to say

Thank You to each and every one of you.

From the President:

Thanks goes to KE6DZD, Wayne for Coordinating the Parade Volunteers and handling Net Control Duties for the A to A Parade. Thanks for again doing another great job in managing the activity!

Congratulations and Thank You for a terrific job, George, KB0ZZT, for all the time, travel, planning, scheduling and 101 other details you worked on and worked out to make both the MS 150 and the MS 50 Bike Ride run so smoothly. Your professionalism and organizational skills were praised highly by the MS Director and Board, and that praise was definitely earned from how smoothly things ran even when communication glitches happened.

N2DLY, Joe, and N0POM, Ron, Thanks for a great job of getting all the volunteers lined-up, and the hard work in coordinating all the necessary people, equipment, and logistics to assist the Air Force with the Air Show and Open House. I'm sure they appreciated all your efforts as I did, even though this Activity once again lands on POM's and my wedding anniversary, which always seems to get second billing to the Air Show!

Again to all of you, the volunteers, Thank You and I hope you had as much fun as I did, working the events. For those of you who haven't made it out to join us, and now know you are missing out on a good thing, you have a couple of opportunities left this year to have some fun with us. In November Bellevue hosts a Parade in honor of Veteran's Day. KE6DZD is already starting to gear up for that one. If you are interested in working that parade, we will be putting out more parade information in October if you would like to assist with the Veteran's Day Parade. If you have any questions prior to that, you can contact me, or KE6DZD for more information.

Sarpy County EOC Console Upgrade - Part 4

Over the past year numerous upgrades and capability enhancements have been installed at the Sarpy County Emergency Operations Center. This is the third in a series of articles that will look in depth at these capability enhancements, along with some historical perspective. Since amateur licensees will operate this equipment during impending or actual emergencies you are invited to visit the EOC, read the manuals, and practice operating the equipment before you need to know how to use it.

This series of articles addresses the capabilities of each of the four operating positions working



from left to right as the console appears from any operator's position. This month's installment covers the right-most position, consisting of a telephone, an Internet-enabled PC, the REACT console and the NAWAS telephone.

Like the telephone between positions 1 and 2, this is a two-line phone capable of answering two different phone numbers. One of the two lines has a public number (593-2362). The computer is the main monitor for the Papio Creek Warning System. It constantly downloads rainfall and Papio Creek Stage Gage information, which is very useful in flood watches. Like console 1, the computer has access to the internet.

The REACT control console is hard-wired to the REACT repeater which is located near the base of the Court House tower. The NAWAS phone is hard-wired into a national circuit that, by default, only connects the three dozen phones in Nebraska. This "Nebraska-only" circuit can be expanded, for example, when NWS in Valley needs to bridge into the Iowa circuit to tell Pottawattamie County, IA that they are being placed into a watch or warning. Since there are 36 NAWAS drops in Nebraska, you can imagine that many of the western Nebraska counties "share" their NAWAS phone with their neighbors via radio relay. Sarpy County is very fortunate to have this communications asset in the EOC.

The Sarpy County EOC is located in the basement of the Sarpy County Hall of Justice at 1210 Golden Gate Drive. You'll want to call 593-5785 to insure that the EOC is open in order to practice with any of the equipment described in this series.



By N2DLY— Joe

BELLEVUE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFERS RADIO CLASSES AND LICENSE EXAMINATION TO THE COMMUNITY

If you've been looking for a new hobby, one both challenging and fun, Amateur Radio may be for you. Although a FCC license is required, the Members of the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club (BARC) want to help you get started.



The Bellevue ARC is offering a two part, NO Morse Code required, Amateur Radio "Technician" license class on two consecutive Saturdays, October 15 and 22.

The class time will be from 9:00AM to 3:00PM.

The location is the Smith Suite of the Alegent Midlands Hospital, 11111 South 84, Papillion (South of Highway 370 on 84th).

The class size is limited so please make reservations. The cost of the class including the ARRL Study Guide, "Now You're Talking", is \$20.

Participants are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early.

On Saturday, October 29, there is a review and practice test session from 9:00AM to 11AM, the test session starting at Noon. Cost of Testing is \$14.



For those who are already prepared to test for their Amateur Radio license or upgrade should contact Bruce KY0Z to make arrangements.

For reservations or more information, contact Bruce Reitan, KY0Z, BARC Education Officer, email: bdreitan@cox.net.



ARC Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 2005 CLUB MEETING

The August 2005 BARC monthly meeting was held on Thursday the 18th at the Masonic Social Hall on Franklin street in Bellevue.

Intro: President Ladonna Clark KB0OUO called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. This was followed by introductions of everyone present. A sign-in list of those present is attached to these minutes.

Ladonna noted that the July Board and Meeting minutes had been published. She moved to accept as written. John N4OWG and others took exception to statement about the repeater. Corrections were noted and minutes accepted with corrections.

Treasurer Tom Huber WD0BFO gave his report of club balance sheet and cash flow. After Tom's report, Bob W0OXD moved to accept, Frank AA0ZP seconded - approved by voice vote.

Officer Reports:

President: Picnic: Will be held at John and Mi Yong's house south of Papillion. Directions will be on the web. Each person or family coming should bring a dish to pass around and some drinks for themselves. Club will provide coffee and ice tea, hotdogs and hamburgers.

Next Board Meeting: Joe N2DLY will preside again as Ladonna will be out of town.

Property: For picnic, Gary KC0QYL will bring club coffee pot and cooler – Bruce KY0Z said he'd bring a couple of club tables.

Treasurer: Tom WD0BFO announced he had received trial version of Quicken to try out for club bookkeeping.

Courtesy: John N4OWG reported that Sid Reade W0WWH had been hospitalized today, but with no findings in ER, was sent home at 4:30 p.m. As of now (meeting time), Sid is back in Midlands Hospital (room 503).

Education: Bruce KY0Z discussed his plans for ham classes at Midlands in the Fall. He has put all the details out in an e-mail which everyone should have.

Classes are 15 and 22 September with testing to be accomplished on the 29th. Bruce again pleaded for more members to get their VE certification.

Recruiting: Ladonna and Ron N0POM talked about National Night Out in LaVista. Lots of visitors and interest in club and in taking classes. Police asked us to come back next year to help with communications. The visitor count in Papillion was not nearly as much as in LaVista. Joe said he had handed out brochures at Sarpy County Fair – most of them had been picked up by passers-by. We need to order some more brochures.

Old Business:

At the A to A Parade, Gary and Al will handle the float but need help. Orange vests will be provided to personnel.

Christmas Meeting: Menu will be announced at September meeting. Its to be at Piccollo's and we need everyone to sign up and pay up not later than November meeting.

MS Bike Ride: Sunday 28th - George has enough folks but will take more. Be there (Waterloo HS) at 0700. There will be staggered start times. Maps, routes, water stops have been passed out. Ron N0POM went through the routine for the Offutt Air Show. Our folks will wear Sarpy County green vests. Parade plus Air Show gets you a cap (or > 8 hours at Air Show). Enter at Meyer Gate (by commissary) about 0900. Our HQ will be the sheriff trailer parked off edge of static display area. Still need someone willing to man the hospital area all day Sat and Sun.

New Business:

Scout Speech: Ladonna reported that a Scout Leader from St. James Methodist church, would like to get one of our members to give a presentation amateur radio to Boy Scouts under auspices of JOTA. Let Ladonna know if interested and she'll put you in touch with the POC.

Nominating Committee: Need at least 3 members – and 3 volunteered. They are: Frank Taylor AA0ZOP, John Sheffield N4OWG, Dar Piatt W9HZC.

Injured OPPD lineman: Ladonna told the membership that Ken Hupka of OPPD was badly injured in HV electrical accident and will require many months of expensive rehab. John Sheffield moved to donate \$20 to the OPPD man, Tom WD0BFO seconded. Actually, the hat was passed and most of the member-

ship kicked in some money for the cause. This will be deposited by Tom into our bank account and a check in like amount issued to Mr. Hupka's wife on behalf of the club.

Adjourn: Bill WB0UKL moved to adjourn, and Tom WD0BFO seconded. Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

At this point WB0EMU demonstrated some of the flexibility of the county HTs and their supporting infrastructure independent of the trunking mode that had been presented a couple of meetings ago. Very interesting demo than ran from 9 p.m. to 9:40 p.m.

BARC Board Meeting Minutes

2005 August

Meeting called to order 7:15 p.m., August 11th at Wendy's on Galvin Road, Bellevue NE.

Members/officers/directors present: Joe Mastandrea N2DLY (acting Pres.), Tom Huber WD0BFO, Allen Anderson WA0FIP, Jeff Noble KC0TZB, Gary Kroll KC0QYL, Bob McFarland W0OXD, Bruce Reitan KY0Z, Gary Gail WD8AJJ, John Sheffield N4OWG

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Huber WD0BFO presented the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow for July. He pointed out that both June and July reflected a positive net revenue figure. A copy of these reports is attached to these minutes. John N4OWG moved to accept report, Bob W0OXD seconded, all approved.

Club Officer Reports:

Acting Pres Joe N2DLY announced formation of a nominating committee for club officers for next year – members TBA.

August Spark Gap to be published Friday.

As VP, Joe announced club meeting programs for August (P2J) and September (Fun w. Physics and Ham Radio).

Secretary - Masonic Lodge letter requesting extension of monthly meeting arrangements next year is done, but approach may need more work. Brief discussion followed. Ladonna is working this issue.

Property – Gary KC0QYL said Wayne had purchased two 12 in. X 18 in. magnetic signs for \$49.70 and this was the least expensive that was available. A discussion of storage tricks for magnetic signs followed. (e.g., don't stick them to metal or to each other).

VP Joe N2DLY interjected that we still had a lot of club activities and obligations to fulfill:

AUG 27th : A to A Parade, Bellevue

AUG 28th : MS 50 Bike Ride

AUG 27 & 28: OAFB Air Show

If you serve more than one day, you get an Air Show cap, badges, and Air Show lanyard.

POCs: Ron N0POM or Joe N2DLY for A to A and/or Air Show

George KB0ZZT – MS 50

Courtesy Committee: John N4OWG sent B'Day cards to two members.

Education: Bruce KY0Z reiterated the contents of the detailed e-mail he put on the web regarding the next class: The Smith Suite was reserved for October 15, 22 and 29 with the McArdle Suite also reserved on October 29. We will have these rooms from 8AM to 4PM. The class sessions will be on the 15th and the 22nd in the Smith Suite and the test session will be held in both the Smith Suite and the McArdle Suite on the 29th.

With two rooms being used for exams in anticipation of more license candidates, more of us need to get or VE certifications done. The requirements can be found at www.fcc.gov. The test needs to be administered by another VE.

Publicity: Al WA0FIP has the float permit in hand for Bellevue A to A parade. Al will be out of town and Ladonna will deal with following up to get float position in parade lineup. (Form has been submitted, just need to know assignment).

Recruiting: Al will try to go to REACT meeting on August 25th to mine the meeting for recruits.

Repeater: Tom WD0BFO reports the G6 is still working fine.

Social: Annual picnic coming up September 17th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. upon motion by Joe and second by Tom.

VEC TESTS

ARRL/VEC test fee for 2005 is \$14.00. Any questions can be directed to the ARRL/VEC by calling 860-594-0300 or e-mail to "vec@arrl.org".

The next VE session sponsored by the Ak-Sar-Ben ARC will be held on **September 26th** at 6:30 p.m. at the Red Cross at 81st and Spring Streets here in Omaha

Local and Not So Local Nets (times are in local time)

Mon-Fri	0730	3.9835	NE Morning Net
Mon-Fri	1230	3.980	Cornhusker Net
Mon-Fri	1830	3.982	NE Storm Net
Mon-Fri	2100	146.76	Eastern NE ARES
Monday	2000	147.39	Sarpy County ARES Net
Monday	2000	145.13	Boyer Valley ARC Net
Monday	2100	146.94	Douglas County ARES Net.
Monday	2100	145.29/145.37	Heartland ARC, Mills Co. IA
Tuesday	1900	146.94	QCWA Net
Tuesday	2000	144.25	2M SSB Net
Tuesday	2000	145.45	Omaha DX Association Net
Wednesday	1900	146.67	Dodge County ARES Net
Wednesday	2000	145.31	Ashland ARC Net
Wednesday	2100	146.82	Pottawattamie County ARES
Wednesday	2100	146.73	Nebraska City, NE ARES
Thursday	1900	28.200	10M CW Net
Thursday	2000	145.115	Handi-Hams Net
Thursday	2030	443.450 / 443.225	Plattsmouth ARC Net
Thursday	2100	434/421.25	ATV Net
Thursday	2130	145.115	NOBLE Net, Tangier Shrine
Saturday	0930	7.047	4 State QRP CW net
Saturday	1000	145.115	FM CW Practice Net
Saturday	1200	146.82	Swap Net.
Sunday	0800	3.901	3900 Club Trader Net
Sunday	0900	3.896	3900 Club Net
Sunday	0930	3.955	QCWA Net
Sunday	1900	28.125	Slow Speed CW Net
Sunday	1900	28.400	10M Phone Net
Sunday	2000	145.09	Packet Net on KE6DZD BBS
Sunday	2000	145.235	Sarpy RACES Net.
Sunday	2100	146.94	Midlands ARES Net
Sunday	2100	434/421.25	ATV Net
Sunday	2100	145.37/145.29	Heartland ARC Newslite

BARC

**Bellevue ARC, Inc
C/O Tom Huber, WDØBFO
7518 Chandler Hills Dr.
Bellevue, NE. 68147-2108**

**We are on the web
www.qsl.net/w0wyv/barc.htm**

Label here

Meeting Directions

Bellevue Masonic Lodge dining hall, 1908 Franklin St. Directly west of Washington Park on Franklin St. Small parking lot on south side of building. Suggest keeping some spaces open for handicapped members. Plenty of on-street parking.

Directions from the west: go east on Hwy 370. Keep following signs for Hwy 370. Turn left (north) at 2nd traffic light on Mission St. in Olde Town. Lodge will be on your left.

Directions from Great Western Bank (old meeting location): go east on Harvel Drive. Keep going east until road changes into Franklin St. going south. Continue south for several blocks. Lodge will be on your right.

What's Happening Locally

- ◆B.A.R.C. Repeater meeting @ 7:00 PM Thursday of Board meeting at a place to be announced monthly until a permanent site is decided upon.
 - ◆B.A.R.C. Board meeting @ 7:30 PM 2nd Thursday each month at a place to be announced monthly until a permanent site is decided upon.
 - ◆B.A.R.C. Club meeting @ 7:30 PM 3rd Thursday each month (except DEC) at the Bellevue Masonic Lodge dining hall, 1908 Franklin St. in Bellevue
 - ◆Lunch @ 11:30 daily Mon-Fri at Wendys on Galvin Rd., Bellevue
 - ◆Friday night do-net @ 8 PM at Wendys on Galvin Rd., Bellevue
 - ◆Breakfast @ 9:00 Saturday mornings at No Frills in Bellevue.
 - ◆Breakfast @ 10:00 Sunday mornings is at Burger King just south of Southroads Mall on Fort Crook Road.
-