



Volume MMX -- Issue 02



February 2010

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## Dues Again?

By Bob McCoy NBØB

"Dues!?! We don't need no stinkin' dues!" Well, actually we do. And at \$12 per year it's still one of the cheapest in the area.



So what happens with that money? Let me assure you the board is not "partying like it's 1999." The dues go to the operating expenses of the club. The two largest expenses of the club include insurance and room rental for the meetings. The club is insured through the ARRL. It is necessary and prudent for the club to have insurance to cover any liabilities from accidents. And while we have a great deal through the Bellevue Masons for room rental, it is still a monthly expense.

There are also miscellaneous expenses such as printing, postage, and some of the Field Day expenses. In fact, the annual dues don't always cover all our expenses. To that end, the Social Committee has various events throughout the year that help with the overall budget and keeping our dues low. These events include the various suppers and social events.

Amateur radio is a fun hobby and there are all sorts of ways to get involved. And that's the main thing -- we want you to be active in the hobby. But as long as you are active, why not support the club along the way by joining and making it official with a membership?

Thanks! And I hope to catch you on the air.  
Bob/NBØB

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## Bellevue Amateur Radio Club Supports the 2010 MS Bike Rides Fellow Hams:

Once again the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring the communications support for the 2010 Multiple Sclerosis bike rides. I am the BARC Communications Chairperson for these events.

Your help will be greatly appreciated. I ask that you disseminate the following information to your club members and other local area Amateurs so that we may have a pool of volunteers to assist with the communications for these public service events. Also, please include this public service event information at your local club meetings, in your club newsletters, and on your local nets. The web link for the MS Bike Ride details is:

[bikenen.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BIKE\\_NEN\\_Details](http://bikenen.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BIKE_NEN_Details) (no hyphen (-) in pagename).

This is a great chance for new hams to get involved in public service events. You need not be a member of any club, ARES, or RACES to volunteer your time and resources. No experience is required. If you are new to Amateur Radio public service events, we will give you on-the-job training in a practical and





pacific stations such as **VK, ZL, 9M, DU**, etc. coming in via long path over Europe.

**CE0**, Juan Fernandez – **JA8BMK** should now be active as **CE0ZA** until Feb 2 160-10M on SSB/CW/Digital modes. QSL direct to the home call.

**CN**, Morocco – **MJ0ASP** will be active Feb 18-31 as **CN2MR**, mostly CW. QSL direct to the home call.

**3C0**, Annobon Is. – CW/SSB/Digital activity by **EA5BYP** and **EA5KM** in April with calls and QSL info to be announced.

**7Q**, Malawi – Harry **7Q7HB** will be active on CW and digital modes for the next three months. QSL direct to **G0IAS** only.

**E5**, No Cook Is. – **E51WWB** from Manihiki from 3-15 Feb on CW/SSB/Digital 40M-15M. QSL to home call, **AD7AF**.

**JD1**, Marcus Is. – If you need this one you might want to make a concerted effort to work **JD1BMM** which will be active until mid-Feb. Op **JA6GXX** reports the **JA** military station there will close down in Dec and the club station in February. **JD1** may be rare in the future as a result. QSL direct via the QRZ.com address.

Cocos-Keeling Is. – **NL8F** will be active as **VK9COF** or **VK9C/NL8F** with activity in the ARRL DX Phone Test March 3-10. QSL to **K8NA**.

So. Cook Is. – Tim **NL8F** will follow Cocos Keeling with a stop in Roratonga as **E51COF** March 20-30 QSL to **K8NA**.

**SV/A**, Mt Athos – More info on activity by Monk Apollo. He is being plagued by pirate operators who come on following his active on-air periods. He has now begun to operate more RTTY as this mode disturbs the other residents of the monastery less. Look for him around 1700Z - 2100Z on 160M, 80M 40M and 30M. But beware the pirates!

**6W**, Senegal/**J5UAP** Guinea-Bissau – Peter is active as **6W2SC** and **J5UAP** at the border between the two countries. Activity until the end of March mainly on the digital modes, 160-10M. QSL both to home call, **HA3AUI**.

February Notes: Last month I began a discussion of some of the issues the DXer faces in QSLing direct

or to a foreign manager. As a follow up to the return postage issue, I found an interesting resource which gives some very good guidance on the cost of postage to send a single unit of mail back to the US from various foreign countries. Go to [www.k4hb.com/postage.html](http://www.k4hb.com/postage.html). The site gives the postage rates to the USA for the most common foreign countries. A good guide when deciding how many green stamps to put into the envelope with your card and sae. You need to send enough but you don't want to waste money. QSLing is expensive enough.

This month I would like to continue with some suggestions on your QSL card design. A QSL card is a personal item, the design of which reflects an ops' individuality. However, the DXer must be careful that card design doesn't get in the way of receiving a return card from that rare DX station. First and foremost, use a standard card size, approximately 3.5" by 5.5" but no larger than 4" by 6". Odd sizes or unusual media only complicate things for everyone. Especially true when a special envelope size is required as a result of the odd card size. We all have received QSL cards of varying design. Some really nice cards and some rather plain Jane or weird. I even received one once printed on a slab of wood! Nice, but not practical. However, the fancier or more unusual the card, the greater the expensive. Attractive full color custom picture cards are nice but can be very expensive. Alternatively, a plain single sided card in one ink color on nice contrasting stock can be had for a couple pennies each and can be more effective in getting a QSL from the foreign station. The thing to remember is that a foreign station or a QSL manager who handles hundreds or thousands of cards has already seen every card design that you could possibly conger up and he isn't interested in what you or your dog looks like. What he is looking for, is for you to make it easy and fast for him to process your request for a card. In most cases the foreign ham or manager prefers a card with everything clearly presented on one side; your call, your location and address as well as the contact info. Having to flip the card over and back a time or two to get all your info only adds to his work. Save your fancy two sided card with the color picture for your more special contacts where it is more likely to be appreciated and the dog adored. This is especially true when QSLing to a manager as the actual DX station will likely never see your card anyway.

Besides sloppy handwriting, the most common error that gets in the way of getting a confirmation back is confusion on the date and or time of the contact.

Always use the 24 hour GMT clock (i.e. 1234Z) to log your contacts and use the date format dd/mm/yyyy. While we Americans tend to use mm/dd/yyyy, we are universally out of sync with the rest of the world on this issue. If you logged a contact on July 4, 2009 and send a card with the date formatted 07/04/2009, the foreign station will read that as 7 April 2009 and will likely return your card with the feared 'Not in the log!' notation even though you had a good contact. The DX op faced with hundreds of incoming cards isn't likely to spend time searching his log looking for your call if your date or time formats don't match.

Good hunting on the bands... and remember the first rule of DX; always listen, listen, listen before calling.

Thanks to the ARRL DX Bulletins, the OPDX Bulletin and the 425DXN Bulletin for some of the information above.

73, and good DX,  
Mike, NA9Q

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## Officers for 2010

The following individuals were elected and inducted at the annual meeting:

President - Wayne Jorns KE6DZD  
Vice President - Keith Keene KA0IJY  
Secretary - Mike Sprunger KD0GHZ  
Treasurer - Dan Schreck AC0NW  
Property Manager - Bill Venter KG0AR

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## Poser

### short answer

Many engineers and technicians often label the two divisions of field-effect transistors as JFET and MOSFET. Why is this an inaccurate distinction?

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Answer to the poser appears on "Poser Answer" on page 5.

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## BARC Member Doings

If you participated in a ham-radio-related activity during the past month, drop a line to W0KT. This is your monthly opportunity to promote your favored activities or for a moment of fame.

### ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes (Jan 23)

There was no E-skip nor enhanced propagation on any VHF/UHF bands. I made about 25 QSOs, mostly local. I worked two fairly distant contest stations, one in western KS and one in northwest OK, on 2 meter SSB.

--W0KT

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## Monthly Birthday List

(no information provided) Someone please volunteer to provide this information.

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## Poser Answer

A JFET is a junction field-effect transistor, one in which all the elements have an electrical connection (junction) between them. A MOSFET is a metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor. It's indeed possible to build a JFET from metal oxide. The counterpart of a JFET is more accurately an IGFET, insulated-gate field-effect transistor--the gates are electrically isolated from the source and drain.

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## New Questions Coming



By Bob McCoy, NB0B

A new question pool is coming for the Technician class amateur radio license. The new pool goes into effect on July 1st, 2010.



## Events

Editor-recommended events are **highlighted**.

### Ham-Related Events

event type	start date	event description
meeting	Feb 11	BARC Board Meeting - <a href="http://www.bellevuearc.org">www.bellevuearc.org</a>
contest	Feb 12	YL-OM contest - <a href="http://www.ylrl.org">www.ylrl.org</a>
contest	Feb 13	CQ WW RTTY WPX digital - <a href="http://www.cqwxrtty.com">www.cqwxrtty.com</a>
contest	Feb 13	LA QSO Party - <a href="http://laqso.w5yl.com">laqso.w5yl.com</a>
contest	Feb 14	North American Sprint phone - <a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">www.ncjweb.com</a>
meeting	Feb 18	<b>BARC General Membership</b> - <a href="http://www.bellevuearc.org">www.bellevuearc.org</a>
BARC Board	Feb 11	7:30 PM, - <a href="http://www.bellevuearc.org">www.bellevuearc.org</a>
PSK sprint	Feb 12	Valentine Sprint - <a href="http://www.podxs070.com">www.podxs070.com</a>
contest	Feb 12	YL-OM contest - <a href="http://www.ylrl.org">www.ylrl.org</a>
RTTY contest	Feb 13	CQ WW RTTY WPX - <a href="http://www.cqwxrtty.com">www.cqwxrtty.com</a>
BARC club mtg	Feb 18	7:30 PM, - <a href="http://www.bellevuearc.org">www.bellevuearc.org</a>
education	Feb 20	General class FCC license classes begin.-- <a href="http://www.bellevuearc.org">www.bellevuearc.org</a>
contest	Feb 20	<b>ARRL DX contest CW</b> - <a href="http://www.arrl.org">www.arrl.org</a>
special event	Feb 20	Iwo Jima/Sullivans - <a href="mailto:t-mc-nulty@msn.com">t-mc-nulty@msn.com</a>
Feld-Hell sprint	Feb 20	Feld-Hell Super Bow Sprint - <a href="http://www.feldhellclub.org">www.feldhellclub.org</a>
special event	Feb 20	Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. George Washington's Birthday - <a href="http://www.mvarc.com">www.mvarc.com</a>
contest	Feb 21	<b>FM simplex Contest</b> - <a href="http://www.w9rh.org">www.w9rh.org</a>
education	Feb 25	FCC license examinations - Lincoln, NE - <a href="mailto:K0IH@ARRL.NET">K0IH@ARRL.NET</a>

sparkgap1002.fm

### Ham-Related Events

event type	start date	event description
contest	Feb 27	North American QSO Party digital - <a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">www.ncjweb.com</a>
contest	Feb 28	CQ WW 160 Meter SSB - <a href="http://www.cq160.com">www.cq160.com</a>
special event	Mar 1	Peace Corps ARC, KA9NLX. Celebrate the formation of the US Peace Corps - <a href="mailto:jpaskev@aol.com">jpaskev@aol.com</a>
contest	Mar 6	<b>ARRL DX contest phone</b> - <a href="http://www.arrl.org">www.arrl.org</a>
hamfest	Mar 6	McClelland, IA - <a href="http://www.swiarc.org">www.swiarc.org</a>
BARC Board mtg	Mar 11	7:30 PM, - <a href="http://www.bellevuearc.org">www.bellevuearc.org</a>
BARC club mtg	Mar 18	7:30 PM, - <a href="http://www.bellevuearc.org">www.bellevuearc.org</a>
hamfest	Mar 20	ARRL Nebraska State Convention - <a href="http://lincolnhamfest.org">lincolnhamfest.org</a>
education	Mar 25	FCC license examinations - Lincoln, NE - <a href="mailto:K0IH@ARRL.NET">K0IH@ARRL.NET</a>
education	Mar 27	FCC license examinations, Midlands Hospital - <a href="http://www.bellevuearc.org">www.bellevuearc.org</a>
education	Mar 27	Central Plains Severe Wx Symposium. - <a href="http://www.lincolnweather.org/cpsws2010.html">www.lincolnweather.org/cpsws2010.html</a>

### 2010 ARRL NE Section Convention and hamfest.

Joe, K0NEB, stopped by the January BARC meeting to pitch the March 20 convention in Lincoln.



## BARC Board Meeting, January 14, 2010

2010 Club Officers Present:  
KE6DZD, Wayne Jorns, Pres.  
KD0GHZ Mike Sprunger, Secretary  
AC0NW, Dan Schreck, Treas.

### 2010 Standing Committee Chairpersons Present:

KE6DZD, Wayne Jorns, Pres.  
KB0OUO Ladonna Clark, Social Comm. KD0GHZ Mike Sprunger,  
Secretary  
W0CHF Stan Klein, Publicity Information Officer  
WD0BFO Tom Huber, Repeater Comm.

### Non-Standing Committee Chairperson's (Non-Board Members)

### Other Members Present:

W0OXD Bob McFarland  
KD0AVM Michael Turner  
N4OWG John Sheffield  
AA0ZA Frank Taylor  
KD0HWG Theresa Ratekin

### Time Meeting Called to Order:

1930L

### Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Discussion: No BARC Meeting in December 2009

Motion:  
Seconded:  
Passed/Failed:

### Financial Audit Committee (Performed before - not part of the regular BARC Board Meeting)

Four members met at 1900L met to review the financial records for BARC, 2009. These were: N4OWG John Sheffield, AA0ZA Frank Taylor, KD0HWG Theresa Ratekin and W0CHF Stan Klein. Frank Taylor will report the findings at January's regular membership meeting.

### Club Officer Reports:

#### Presidents Report:

Thanks to the 2009 Board Officers for serving last year. Also, thanks to the incoming 2010 Board Officers. We are looking forward to the following activities in this year's agenda. Some of these are: BARC Repeater, Support for Bike Rides, 2 Parades to include Veteran's Day, Club Picnic, Field Day,

Air Show, MAYER, Flea Market, La Vista Days, Papillion Days.

Vice Presidents Report:  
Secretary Report:  
Treasurer Report:  
Property Manager Report:  
Committee Reports:  
Bike Rides:  
Courtesy:  
Education:  
Events: (Temporary Committee as needed)  
Field Day: (Temporary Committee as needed)  
Publicity:  
Recruitment/Marketing Committee:  
Repeater:  
Social/Events Committee:  
Spark Gap:

### Website

Ladonna is working on getting the calendar updated and posted on the BARC Web site (<http://www.bellevuearc.org/>).

### Old Business:

### New Business:

- Ladonna Clark stated that the Social Committee will remain the same this year.
- Membership Dues are due at the end of the year. For those that receive their amateur radio license, membership is free for the first year. If dues are paid for first time members in the last 3 months of the year, the following year is also included.
- It was noted that ARRL membership is posted on the BARC Web site at the Membership link. The club gets a percentage of these dues.
- All board members and committee chairs need to provide a 2010 budget by February's Board Meeting.
- The Technician License Class is coming up in two weeks (January 23rd and 30th) with the test offered on February 6th.
- It was suggested that we focus this year on bringing new members into the amateur radio service. One way may be to contact others on a one-to-one basis. This may be in a social group in which we are regularly involved (e.g., church group, the Masons, etc.).
- John Sheffield thanked the folks that gave money to repair Billy Hemphill's Kenwood radio.



