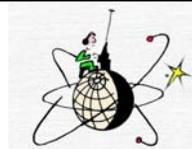




Printed Circuit



– February 2012 –

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>

McClelland 03 Mar 2012

SWIARC presents our annual spring Hamfest in McClelland IA, half a dozen miles East of the Council Bluffs city limits. As in recent years Les WB0KFK of D&L Antenna will show up with his multi-table display making our event worthwhile with antennae and Amateur accessories for sale. We've also figured out the dilemma presented by people buying door prize tickets and then leaving before the final award. We will present the **Door Prize** to whomever holds the **ticket**, no matter who bought it. The matter of ultimate prize ownership is up to you and your friend holding the ticket.

McClelland IA Hamfest Saturday 03 March 2012 8AM to Noon

Admission \$4, Tables \$5
(table price incl one admission)
tables are FREE to members

Call Greg N0GR, (712) 566.2698
or N0GR @ ARRL.net

Directions: From I-80 exit 8 in IA
Go 6.0 miles East on Hwy 6
Turn Left (North) on 270th
Go 3.5 miles North
Turn Left twice & you're there

- - - DOOR PRIZES - - -
Chinese dual band H/T
awarded 11:30

JETSTREAM dual band omni antenna
awarded 10:30

MFJ 25A pwr/sup w/meters
awarded 9:30

The Action 2012

Feb 23 SWIARC mtg @ Red X Co/Blfs
Thur North 16th St @ 'G' St
7:30 talk-in .82 from 7PM

Mar 03 McCLELLAND IA FLEA MKT
Sat SWIARC's annual Fest
8-12 \$4 adm. \$5 tables
Door prizes / No tests
["Dynamically Allocated"
FREE tables to members]

Mar 10 HOMEBREW & QRP mtg
Sat Breadeaux Pizza, Ashland

Mar 17 LINCOLN NE HAMFEST
Sat Event Ctr / 84th & Havelock
8:30 \$8 admitt. \$20 tables
\$10 tables before 01 Mar

Mar 22 SWIARC mtg @ Red Cross
Thur North 16th St @ 'G' St.
7:30 talk-in 7PM on 146.82R-

Apr 14 HOMEBREW & QRP Ashland NE

Apr 26 SWIARC mtg @ Red Cross
Thur North 16th St. @ 'G' St.

May 12 CELEBRATE C/B Parade

Jun 23 FIELD DAY nationwide
24 hr 1PM Sat - 1PM Sunday
in our time zone

Sep xx OMAHA (Ak) club Hamfest
xx Springfield NE Fairgnds

SWIARC Memberships expired Dec 31
Send ck to Box 661 Co/Blfs 51503
\$15 dues / We accept rprr donats.

SWIARC Meeting 01/26

Joel KQØJ brought some 6 inch silicon disks to the recent Garage Sale / Flea Mkt and remaining samples were distributed prior to the meeting in January, three of which shattered from incautious handling. They were IBM printer controller ICs. Showing up at the Red Cross in January were:

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Rick | KE4YQD | | |
| Jim | W0ATU | George | KDONME |
| Greg | N0GR | Joel | N0QEI |
| Mike | KD0HZF | Greg | KG0S |
| Steve | KD0JOC | Ron | N0UCM |
| Norm | WA0JYD | Art | KB0UWR |
| Boyd | K0LGG | Rich | WA0ZQG |
| Russ | K0LUW | (15) | |
| Robert | KC0MUX | | |

With no formal meeting at the December dinner we had no Minutes to approve and moved on to the **Treasurer's** report - \$5,003. Pres Rick YQD 'accepted it for audit.' Under 'Correspondence' the Sec'y showed a postcard from **K0SEJ** in **Minnesota** who had used our .82 repeater on the way home a month ago and appreciated the follow-up copy of Printed Circuit newsletter.

The .82 Repeater

Rptr Chairman Greg KG0S said "It's on." Also, the **hum** on the 220 radio link to remote receive site is mostly **fixed** except when very cold. He'd like to implement the 440 link idea we've had for years to which ATU/UCM made and seconded a motion to allow \$500 for 'new' radios. (Passed with no dissent.) There is no protection on the coax at the IWCC site. (No PolyPhasers) ZQG/GR then proposed up to \$150 for incidental repeater expenses at any time subject to approval by one or several of our elected office holders. We've had a similar rule in the past, but with a \$50 limit. Inflation you know. (Passed with no 'nay' votes.)

Russ LUW bought \$400 worth of 220 radios and an antenna to control .82 from his home when he was Trustee & repeater fixer. We bought them for \$400 from Russ to give to Greg KG0S so he will be able to use the radio control function. Motion passed with 1 vote in opposition.

Newsletter & Membership

Rich ZQG presented a bill for supplies previously authorized in a \$235 motion, \$220 already used for stamps. Paid him \$11.76

Motion to buy 'Forever' stamps before price increase - \$440 for a thousand stamps. Approved. [Late Note: Too late. The increase went into effect last week. Forget this one.]

Ten guys renewed membership for a total \$275. (One of them gave \$100.) Memb Cmte Chmn suggests a formal Thank You Ltr / Certificate to be printed on parchment paper and sent to the half dozen guys who've contributed three digit amounts in recent years. Approved. (Sec'y has the parchment paper in stock.)

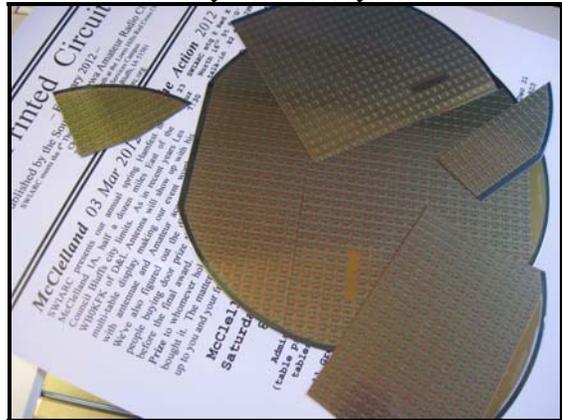
Flea Market

Greg N0GR said plans are coming along. D&L Antenna will be there. (McClelland in March) Publicity involves newsletter, nets, and ARRL.

Under New Business Jim ATU reports our bank is changing its routing number. He'll look into a new bank and/or reprinting our checks.

Rick YQD is going to inspect and test sites for **Field Day** and will report back. Five (5) people liked Hitchcock Park (as in recent years); two (2) liked Fairmount Park in town, and three (3) were looking for a new site for Field Day. Rick's good friend Justin WPR has offered several sites run by his company including one near Glenwood on a hill. We adjourned after an hour and a half.

Minutes by Club Sec'y, 8:59PM



Silicon disks brittle as glass (IBM printer control ICs)

Winter Flea Report

Gary KB0KYT said he's been going to it for twenty years. Rich ZQG asked, "It hasn't been that long has it?" Well, maybe fifteen. First to arrive with a couple boxes of donuts was Tom K0AMD. Joel KQ0J and another visitor also brought donuts. Rich's wife made the FREE coffee. At least two dozen people showed, but not all bought stuff. Some just looked. It was worth it. Lots of good stuff – HF, 2M, and a wide variety of other items like test equipment.

| | | |
|------------------|--------|---------------|
| Rich | WA0ZQG | |
| Tom | K0AMD | Steve N0ORU |
| Ed | KD0CVG | Jeff KD0PGU |
| Tracy | KD0DOE | & Andrea |
| Mitch | WB0GBI | & Krista |
| Mike | KD0HZF | Joel N0QEI |
| Joel | KQ0J | John KB0QKH |
| Dave | N0JSB | Chuck K0RBH |
| & George his dad | | Art KB0UWR |
| Norm | WA0JYD | Dennis WA0VJM |
| Gary | KB0KYT | Rick KE4YQD |
| Russ | K0LUW | Len N0ZU |
| Robert | KC0MUX | & Edw & Jim |

Steve N0ORU, a veteran of these events, made it very much more comfortable bringing along a propane fired turbo fan that put out plenty of hot air. Great when it's 20 deg outside and near freezing in the garage. His display included several HF rigs including a Ten-Tec Triton, Kenwood 520S, Elecraft K2, and Drake TR-7 marked \$350. Also a Duo-Bander 84 for \$125 made right here in Council Bluffs half a century ago. (80 / 40M tube type tcvr) Works good.

SWIARC Pres Rick KE4YQD brought in a box full of surplus mil-spec coax, not all of which was meant for PL type connectors. He was handing it out FREE though. One type had a woven plaid jacket over it, and another pure white outer insulation. Pretty. Only requirement was you had to have a project in mind.

John KB0QKH showed a Yaesu 817 all band, all mode QRP rig complete with accessory HF amp from General Linear Systems to boost output to 80 watts. All for \$350.

Leonard N0ZU and two sons had a large table including (among other items) Radio Shack PRO-2096 digital scanner for \$225; also a plain FM Bearcat 210 scanner for \$10. His MFJ Artificial Ground was \$35, and Alinco DX77 HF rig marked

\$325. There were two (2) Diamond motorized antenna mounts for \$50 and \$75. (Folds the antenna down 90 deg.) And a Leader LAC-897 antenna tuner for 2M at \$35.

Joel N0QEI had the best variety on his table, from a Pioneer 4 channel AM/FM receiver at \$75 to a Commodore C-64C computer with monitor and drives for \$80, down to a Radio Shack Trunk Tracker scanner for \$25 and Timex computer with optional 16k memory module, that one all in original boxes for twenty dollars firm. - de Flea Regular

Burning Answer

This answers the 'Burning Question' pg. 1 query from the December issue, "What's the hand held radio Sam Axe is holding in the prelude to **Burn Notice** shows on TV?" Mitch WB0GBI (Grand Bahama Island) from North Omaha says, "Hey, I have one of those. It's a Radio Shack PRO-83 scanner."

The PRO-83 covers to 956 Mc in four bands starting with 25-54 Mc. Also 108-174 in AM or FM mode, UHF, and 806-956. An important feature called Signal Stalker identifies a strong station without knowing the freq in advance. That's probably why 'Sam Axe' was using it. - de Radio Recog

Printed Circuit

Published by SWIARC Inc. in Council Bluffs IA. The club meets 4th Thursdays (except 3rd in November) 7:30PM at the Red Cross on No. 16th St. at 'G' St. in Council Bluffs. Officers for 2012 are:

| | | |
|------|--------|--------------|
| Rick | KE4YQD | Pres. |
| Norm | WA0JYD | V.P. |
| Rich | WA0ZQG | Sec'y |
| Jim | W0ATU | Treas. |
| Greg | KG0S | Stn. Trustee |

KE4YQD @ Hotmail.com
WA0JYD @ Cox.net
WA0ZQG @ Yahoo.com
W0ATU @ Yahoo.com
KG0S @ Hotmail.com

SWIARC runs a 2M repeater on 146.82 R- and welcomes all users. A club net occurs every Wednesday night at 9PM. There's also a Swap Net at Noon on Saturdays.

The Journey (Part II)

By Steve Thomas KD0HVY



The clouds parted... the speaker crackled... and I heard a voice that sounded like an angel... No wait, that was no angel, that was Rich Swig (WA0ZQG).

Hours earlier with over 500 feet of cable consolidated in 5 runs, I began to lose faith that I could bring order out of the chaos. I fished cable up into the attic, but not before I soldered my PL-259 connections. This made my clearance less tolerant. I succeeded though, estimating the length I needed to leave for my antennas. Once I figured that to my satisfaction, I had to take out the slack, but the twists and turns were ridiculous. My wiring came down to my basement utility room, then across a support beam, behind the water heaters,



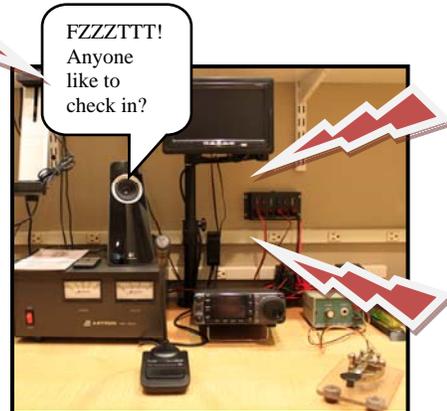
through the wall under the stairs, up against the ceiling, down the door jamb, and finally out the wall next to my desk. I then whipped out my zip ties and began tethering the bundle wherever it was exposed, slowly moving the slack out of the way as I went.

Tripping and catching myself on loose cables which seemed to be acting in conspiracy against me, I attempted to organize the mash of twisted cables into a work of art. I measured the farthest points around my desk that I would want the cable to reach and then I committed myself by cutting the excess off the cables.



Being a newbie, I was certain I would find after all my work that something, somewhere, would not be connected or would be damaged, leaving me with poor signal. As I soldered on the PL-259 connections at my desk, I waited with anticipation as the heat

dissipated from the connector. Like the Holy Grail, I carefully removed my ICOM IC-7000 from the box. I was sure I heard angels singing and witnessed a light shining down from heaven, or perhaps it was the track lighting and my wife on the intercom asking when I was coming up for dinner, it is all very fuzzy. I plugged in my 7 inch monitor, my desk mic, my power unit. My breathing became more rapid as I turned on the power. The Astron hummed as the meters jolted to life. I screwed on the cooled connection to my radio and pressed the power button.



Thanks to Terry (KS0L) my radio was pre-programmed with some common frequencies. The 146.82 repeater was one of them. I turned the knob and I heard the robotic identification "S-W-I-A-R-C Repeater" and then the angelic voice of Rich WA0ZQG calling for check-ins.

I still have a General Class license to obtain and Morse code to learn, but in hindsight, this was no big deal. What was I worried about? I'm sure an HF antenna is easy. Anyone know what a balun is or insulators? How much wire do you need? Just when I thought it was safe to go back into my attic...



Until then... maybe, KD0HVY clear.

 **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!