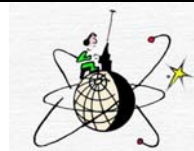




# Printed Circuit



– September 2012 –

Published by the Southwest Iowa Amateur Radio Club Inc.

SWIARC meets the 4<sup>th</sup> 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>

## Narrows Park Picnic

We're going to the Narrows Park on the North side of Council Bluffs along the river for a Potluck Picnic the first Saturday in October. You should be there around Noon to eat.

We've done this before, but later in the month and it turned out to be a little cool. Chilly; not comfortable. The club is paying the park fee for the group and all Hams are invited regardless of membership. Want to see the Missouri River up close? Want to bring the family along to a no cost outing (other than some food)? Come.

Prior to the flood last year there were shelters, charcoal grills, and a place you could stand within inches of the fast flowing river. Let's go see if anything's changed. A tailgate swapmeet is part of it. Bring stuff.



SWIARC Picnic 2010  
WBOGXD & NOGR with XYLS

Directions to Picnic: From I-80 in Iowa:  
Take I-29 North 4 miles to exit 55  
Get off on 25<sup>th</sup> Street and turn North  
Drive past Water Works a third of a mile  
Turn left into parking area

## The Action – 2012

- Sep 27 SWIARC Meeting @ Red Cross  
Thur 16<sup>th</sup> & 'G' Streets, Co/Blfs  
7:30 talk-in 146.82 R-
- Sep 29 EMERSON IA Hamfest  
Sat 20 mi East of I-29 exit 35  
8-1 \$3 admitt. \$5 tables  
D&L Antenna will be there  
talk-in 145.29 R-
- Sep 30 LINCOLN NE Auction \$3 adm.  
Sun (LARC mem FREE - \$15/yr)  
1-3 Scottish Rite Center  
16<sup>th</sup> & 'L' Streets  
Lower level  
talk-in 146.76 R-  
open 10:30 for inspection
- Oct 06 BELLEVUE NE Flea Market  
Sat Masonic Lge on Franklin St  
9-3PM \$2 admitt incl. bag of stff  
MEMBERS ONLY 9 - 11 AM
- Oct 06 NARROWS PARK Picnic at Noon  
Sat I-29 exit 55, 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
11-3 North side of Co/Bluffs  
FREE adm. - bring Potluck
- Oct 13 SERGEANT BLUFF Hamfest  
Sat Sgt. Bluff IA 8AM
- Oct 25 SWIARC meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs  
Thur Red Cross, 16<sup>th</sup> & 'G' Sts.  
7:30
- Nov 15 SWIARC meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs  
Thur a week early this month  
7:30 same place, same time

SWIARC Membership is \$15 per year  
(\$20 thru end December of 2013)  
Send ck to Box 661, Co/Blfs 51502  
We accept repeater donations.

# Meeting Minutes 08/23

We began the meeting right on time, Rick YQD leading a pledge to the flag and introducing himself first:

Rick	KE4YQD	Norm	WA0JYD
Jim	W0ATU	Russ	K0LUW
Bill	KD0FJR	Joel	N0QEI
Mike	KD0HZF	Rich	WA0ZQG
& LaVone		(10)	
& Gary			

Previous Minutes were approved with a small correction, the program referred to as 'RS' signal pro actually 'RF Signal Pro'. The Treasurer then said we had \$5462 in the bank up from \$5431 which report was 'accepted for audit.'

The newsletter had several pictures, all of them remarkably clear thanks to current laser print technology versus the old days (early 1990s) when we used to make Xerox copies which so raised the contrast that pictures came out poorly.

Membership reported Mike RTE who joined last month has upgraded and is now KD0STT. (He's the one who used to be KE0QQ – Quack Quack.)

## Repeater

No one was here to represent the repeater committee, but Rich ZQG said he talked with John QKH who is helping Greg KG0S, our Station Trustee & repeater guy. John and Rich settled an agreement to buy a DCI 4 section band pass filter for the repeater. \$250. They're \$300 new. K0LUW made a motion to buy the filter and with WA0JYD's second, it passed (with a provision to seek approval from KG0S before we actually make payment). Note: We used to have one of those filters, but a previous committee decided not to use it and the filter 'disappeared'. Our **TxRx brand** cavity duplexer does **not** exclude out of band signals.

Greg KG0S has asked to be relieved of repeater maintenance duties. This has happened several times in recent years. Rich ZQG made a motion to pay whomever takes the job \$50 every time he visits the site. No one seconded the motion.

## Repeater ( cont. )

Russ LUW said we already have a provision to pay our repeater person, both a fixed fee plus gas expense at 40c a mile, but no one had the exact print reference, and in any case, no one has taken advantage of the provision. Further discussion of the repeater was tabled.

## Potluck Picnic 06 Oct 2012

Norm JYD is Activity Chmn. but Rick YQD really likes fall picnics. Rick asked for a blank check (he was smiling widely – liked the idea) to pay the **Narrows Park** fee for our group, but agreed to pay for it himself if we would reimburse him whatever it cost. Motion passed. (We trust our members to make decisions.)

YQD will bring a few hamburgers and hot dogs for the Potluck Picnic which starts around 11AM (to get the grill going). Bring some junk to trade also. North 25<sup>th</sup> St. in Co/Blfs – by the river.

## K0SWI Website

Is it SWIARC or K0SWI? We don't have an up to date site. After some discussion we approved an approximate \$200/yr budget for expenses. (It should be around \$100/yr.) Mike HZF's XYL LaVone said she's had some training in site design and will take on the project. Mike said he would help. Great! Maybe at last.

Norm JYD said we're having elections next month. Rich ZQG offered to forward a pdf list of all 75 current members (potential officers) to those whose E/M addr is known. (Contact Rich via E/M to his **Callsign at Yahoo.**)

Rick YQD, commenting on our recent changes to the club Constitution, said it's 'Fraternalism' not 'Fraternization.'

We adjourned by voice vote.

Minutes by club Secretary

# *The Magic Band - 6M*

by Joel KQØJ, Gretna, NE

I have been a Ham for over 40 years, but I am new to 6 Meters. I have always heard 6 Meters referred to as the '**Magic Band**' and wanted to get in on that action. I picked up a multi-mode Yaesu **FT-897D** late last year and by January 2012 (thanks to the lack of snow) I had built a homemade **dipole** from a spare SO-239 connector; some scraps of plexiglass, and some leftover **#10** stranded household **wire**. I put this up on the peak of the roof - a full one foot above the roofline to get on the air - not very exotic. I want to share one high point of my 6 Meter experience that happened this summer to show that you do not need a special setup to have some fun on 6M.

During my workday of 7/24 I watched the **DX Sherlock** page for openings - when I saw a little activity I tuned the rig to 50.125 to listen for an opening. The first contact of the day was at 9:48 AM to NC. In the next few hours the band opened to the southeast and Texas. At 2PM I tried JT65 mode and managed 3 contacts. By 4PM the band openings were very strong so I moved up to 52.525 FM simplex and made a few contacts to the east - VA, TN and OH. Then it was back to USB at 5 PM after my work day was over (I should have taken the day off). I even wandered up to 50.400 and made an AM contact at 6PM.

At 7 PM, I noticed that the spotter page indicated that the **MUF** had reached **150 MHz** to the east of us! I changed to **2 Meter USB** and picked up **W4TMW** in **Georgia** on 50 Watts with my 2 Meter vertical J-pole - my first ever 2 Meter E-skip contact. Back to 6M where the contacts were coming regularly from the east to the southeast. By 10 PM the band was about closed here but I managed to get 2 contacts in Utah and one in Idaho to wrap up the day.

Final tally - 46 contacts in 22 states.

By Mode  
30 - USB  
6 - CW  
4 - FM  
3 - JT65  
2 - PSK31  
1 - AM

Plus the bonus 2M E-skip contact.

I currently call the Omaha area 6 Meter Net Tuesday nights at 8 PM local time on 50.200 USB. All are welcome - great place to test your antenna and rig on 6M.

73 & Good DX, KQØJ

## 6 Meter commonly used frequencies:

-----  
50.015 to 090 CW Beacons  
(good place to ck for openings)  
50.090 to 100 CW QSOs  
50.100 to 124 DX Window  
(work out of USA here)  
50.125 USB calling freq  
  
50.200 Omaha 6M net, Tues 8PM  
50.276 JT65  
50.290 PSK / Digital  
50.400 AM calling freq  
50.400 to 450 AM  
52.525 FM calling freq



*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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month to [steve.a.thomas@hp.com](mailto:steve.a.thomas@hp.com) or SWIARC PO Box 661 Council Bluffs, Iowa 51502.

*Happy Scanning!*

## *Advanced Electronics*

You'll want to learn some measurement basics. Of the various devices, a Voltmeter is handiest. Use one whenever circuits are live. Read Analog style meters straight-on.

When measuring, keep fingers off bare metal. Of particular interest are transistor parameters. Readings between emitter and base are below one volt.

Don't ever rub feet on the rug and then touch a transistor with your finger in dry-weather winter.

Start all troubleshooting with a plan.

Antiquated equipment is still useful. Realize the risks with high voltages on tube type equipment. Even power transistors operated at 12V may be dangerous.

Most problems in late model gear are caused by passive component or connection failure. Observe physical appearance for hints to problems. Never overlook the human (operator induced) element in system failures. If you're still reading and are wondering, that's a good sign. The powers-that-be prefer subjects who don't ask questions. One of their many options is searching E/Mails. Relaying jokes is OK, but be cautious in agreeing to political observations. Every missive sent via fiber optics may be scanned for suspicious or key words. Don't get caught by obvious statements and instead hide your message as in this instance by inserting capital letters after each period.

## *Printed Circuit*

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

<b>Rick</b>	<b>KE4YQD</b>	<b>Pres.</b>
<b>Norm</b>	<b>WA0JYD</b>	<b>V.P.</b>
<b>Rich</b>	<b>WA0ZQG</b>	<b>Sec'y</b>
<b>Jim</b>	<b>W0ATU</b>	<b>Treas.</b>
<b>Greg</b>	<b>KG0S</b>	<b>Stn. Trustee</b>

**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. Dues are \$15 per calendar year and should be sent to the club at Box 661, Council Bluffs IA 51502.