

Printed Circuit

– May 2012 –

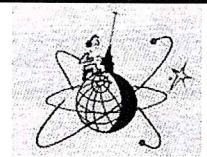
Published by the Southwest Iowa Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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>



Field Day 2012

Always the last full weekend in June, this year our June club meeting comes after it. Thus you should decide now if you're going. It's most fun running a Class A station and that usually means the club. At home you're Class D or if on a generator and a temporary dipole, Class E.

To run Class A you have to get three guys (see the rules) and get a generator or battery, and put up a temporary antenna or two.

Omaha (Ak club) is going to 156th & Maple, or if not, Standing Bear Lake. Bellevue club will be at Halleck Park in Papillion. SWIARC with Pres. Rick YQD in charge, hasn't quite decided. Perhaps by Lake Manawa or Hitchcock Park again five miles North of Crescent IA.

You probably recall the rules say you can't use repeaters or 146.52 Simplex on 2M, but have you noticed digital contacts (PSK 31, RTTY, or other modes enabled with a computer) count the same two (2) points as Morse Code? SSB counts 1.

Have you downloaded **Ham Radio Deluxe** for your computer? It allows for several digital modes. If you have an Apple and OSX version 10.4 or later, try **Cocoa Modem**.

Read the rules for all those 100 point bonus items like five (5) contacts using Solar power, another hundred for just **Inviting an Elected Official**, or having an Educational component. Don't forget to hand in your results before the 30 day period ends, July 24th. (SWIARC's Cmte. head forgot that one year.)

The Action 2012

Jun 7-10 SUPER LAUNCH - NSTAR org
Sat-Sun Multi-Balloon Launch
from Omaha Area to 100k
Radios, cameras, etc.

Jun 16 FLEA MARKET in Lincoln NE
Sat KOGND QTH, 3901 So.42nd
8-12 FREE - Bring own table

Jun 23/24 FIELD DAY nationwide
24 hr 1PM Sat - 1PM Sunday
KE4YQD is 2012 Chairman

Jun 28 SWIARC mtg 7:30PM @ Red X
Thurs Field Day summary mtg

July 14 NORTH BEND NE Hamfest (PARC)
Sat St. Charles Ch. 8th & Locust

July 26 SWIARC mtg @ Red Cross
Thur No. 16th St. @ 'G' Street
7:30PM

July 28 Central States VHF Conf.
Sat Cedar Rapids IA

Aug 05 CEDAR RAPIDS IA Hamfest
Sat Teamsters Hall, J Street

Aug 23 SWIARC mtg in Co/Bluffs
Thur 7:30PM at Red Cross

Sep 08 OMAHA (Ak) club Hamfest
Sat Springfield NE @ Fairgnds
8-1PM \$4admit, tables \$8adv
Pat KOCTU 402) 492.9156

SWIARC Membership is \$15 per year
Send ck to Box 661, Co/Blfs 51502
We accept repeater donations.

Meeting Minutes 04/24

April's meeting was the one we waited for to vote on Pres. Rick YQD's amendments to the club Constitution and By-Laws. Present Thursday night were:

Rick	KE4YQD	Norm	WA0JYD
Jim	W0ATU	Boyd	K0LGG
Bill	KA0BZE	George	KD0NME
& friend Dan		Shawn	NB0R
from Crescent IA		Ron	NOUCM
Bill	KD0FJR	Art	KBOUWR
Paul	WB0GXD	Chris	KC0VEP
Mike	KD0HZF	Rich	WA0ZQG
& LaVone		(16)	

We approved the Minutes as printed with one correction to the Treasurer's report, mistaking the Average balance for the month instead of the current statement balance. See next paragraph.

Treasurer Jim ATU reported \$5,886 in the bank and revised last month's from \$4,6xx to \$5,766 because he read the wrong line on the statement.

Secretary Rich ZQG reported a member's E-Mail commenting on Tim KC0HWG's extensive weather report on .82 during a weather event. Rich also passed around a QSL card from Scott W9AFB who just joined, with a nice color picture of a B-52 loading what may have been an early model Cruise Missile.

The newsletter was a combined issue because our Editor's job took priority for a couple of weeks, 5 hours sleep for a while, but it was worth the wait. Scott AFB's locally accessible repeater list was a featured item this issue. 26 of them on 2M.

ZQG proposed we award the Editor and his wife (KD0HVY & KD0HVZ) paid memberships for 2012 & 2013. Passed unanimously. (He uses his own equipment to print at no cost to us.)

In the absence of Trustee and repeater guy KG0S, Rick YQD said it's working and his (YQD's) Echo Link has been re-designated with our club callsign, K0SWI. Ron UCM asked to check power out on .82 because it's weak at his house near Harrison St. halfway across the South side of Omaha.

Former Trustee and repeater maintenance guy Shaun NB0R said he has a 440 antenna we can use for the planned new radio link between sites, currently on 220.

Our club liability insurance runs out in May, and the Treasurer's computer is down so he was unable to renew it with the new ARRL agent. Pres. Rick YQD will assist Treas to contact the new agent, Hays Affinity Group. This has to be in effect before we do anything in public such as Field Day.

Under Unfinished Business, Rick YQD read the changes he proposed last month, and after a few minutes discussion regarding a quorum and how many votes that meant, we passed all changes except one unanimously, 13 votes each, and the one that only got 12 votes related to Norm JYD's office of Vice President and duties assigned.

Norm JYD had some interesting announcements: contest info available from WA7BNM (look it up); the NE QSO party this weekend, and a list of wire lengths for HF dipoles.

George NME wants one of those 21 ft pipes used for top rails on a fence. They only stock 10 ft lengths now. Mr. Ed's Flagpole company on Valley View in Council Bluffs will make you a custom flagpole, 25 ft of aluminum with a large tab you can drive your vehicle onto to hold it up for around \$150. We adjourned at 8:45PM, not bad considering the amendments.

Minutes by club Secretary

Late Note: American Fence in far West Omaha at 155th & Industrial Road has the 21 ft lengths of top rail in various diameters.

Your Pic on QRZ

You probably already use QRZ dot com to look up callsigns. It's a good way to let other Hams know your E-Mail address also. And if you want to show off your station, that's also possible. For a really great example, look up the guy Joel KQ0J was talking to in Kuwait. The callsign is 9K2UU, Nine Kilo Two Uncle Uncle. Your station pic doesn't need to be quite so elaborate.

Program Review

Art KB0UWR brought one of his smaller solar panels to the meeting, an adjustable model with outputs ranging from 12 down to 3V. Under fluorescent lights it was only putting out 2.2V but it'd be great for a variety of small radios on a camping trip. Just – not at night.

Rich WA0ZQG had a couple of those cheap orange hundred foot extension cords we often use at Field Day since Andy WB0WKC (SK) left us a couple of years ago. Andy made a #12AWG hundred footer three wire with ground in a pink jacket so no one could mistake ownership. The orange ones are usually #16 wire or so and the demo included a 1500 Watt electric heater to generate some I2R voltage drop.

The table below shows input AC voltage from the wall socket and various outputs on the far end of 200 feet of extension cord. Well you ask, what happens if I only use one extension cord? Oh yeah, suppose the generator is unmovable and the tree supporting your antenna requires your equipment to be 115 feet distant. And you didn't bring a 20 footer? Here's what happens:

Wall socket	123 VAC
at Red X	
200' away	122 V
w/heater fan	
600 Watt load	112 VAC
900 Watt load	107 V
1500 Watt load	99 V

Norm WA0JYD switched the heater load while Mike KD0HZF read the AC on the \$4 Harbor Freight meter. Also on the output end of the 200' of #16 wire was an Alinco 32A switcher set for 13.58 VDC into a car headlight drawing 5A. The output never varied. Stayed within 20 mV throughout the test. I looked up some specs:

MFJ 4225 switcher	\$99	85-135 AC
ALINCO 330MV sw.	\$154	n/a
ASTRON 20M	\$120	105-125
ASTRON 35M	\$164	105-125

The Alinco performed well with very low AC input. Art KB0UWR won one of those MFJ switchers at our March Hamfest.

2M to Wyoming

Two hours before the Swap Net on Saturday Cinco de Mayo, 10 AM that morning, there was lots of activity on .82 including repeaters from Kansas and Nebraska. The APRS propagation site* showed red (greatly enhanced) all across Nebraska and down into Texas. WA0CBK was "tractor mobile" out by mile marker 20 on I-80 in Nebraska (20 miles from the Wyoming border). That's 390 air miles, Council Bluffs to Potter NE.

CBK lives in Potter NE and runs a Motorola business-band linear on his tractor with its 200 Ampere hour battery for power. We had a good conversation through various .82 machines while he mentioned getting a license from "Uncle Leo" W0GFQ of WRL in Council Bluffs, and his 4900 ft. elevation in Western Nebraska.

de 2M base stn.

P. S. CBK's tractor is green. Model 4055. The APRS site is (*) aprs.MountainLake.K12.us



Left to Right excluding FT-2800
ALINCO 32 Amp switcher
MFJ 4225 25A switcher
ASTRON VS-35M

Bellevue Flea 04/28

Les WB0KFK of D&L Antenna 'made' the Bellevue Flea merely by showing up with his multi-table display. In prior years Bellevue was a small event. Now, and if Les shows up next year, the club is going to have to look for a larger venue. One interesting table this year had a whole bunch of Collins stuff including four (4) KWM-1 transceivers. The KWM-1 covered only 20 through 10M (in 100 kc segments) versus the KWM-2 80 through 10M in 200 kc segments. Price for the 2 that worked was \$350 – 400.



COLLINS KWM-1 HF transceiver

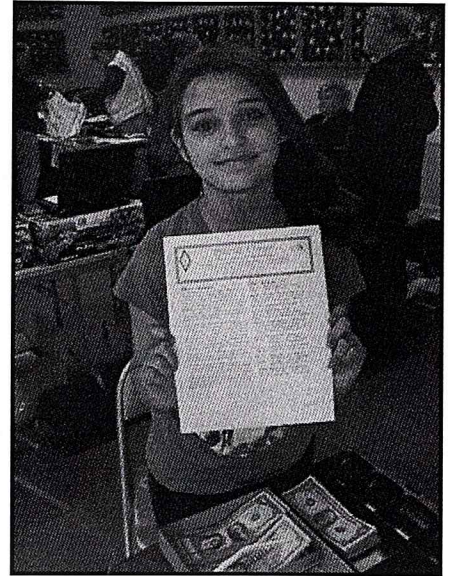
Another table had a dozen or so IBM laptops with prices \$125 to \$275, all turned on with pretty blue displays. Outside in the parking lot one pickup had both a Kenwood TL-922 and Henry 2KD HF linear amplifiers.



KENWOOD TL-922 & HENRY 2KD amps

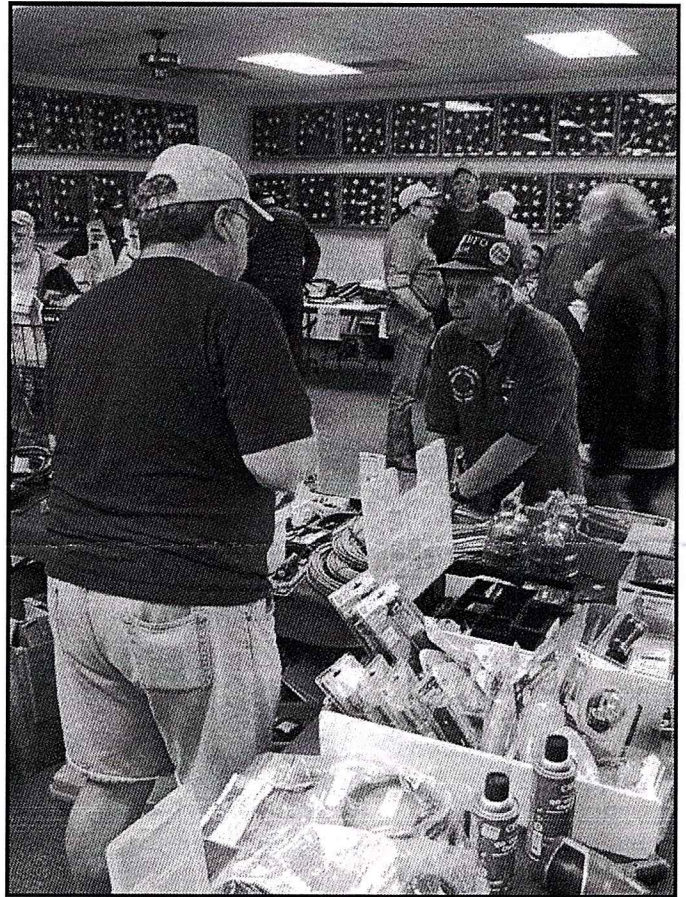
The Bellevue club always has good food. Maybe that's because they have several XYL members. This event was no exception with lots of hot food available.

SWIARC was there with half a table to display our newsletter. Mark N9XTN's daughter was being helpful and held up the current issue for this photo:



Mackenzie, N9XTN's harmonic

Tom WD0BFO has been a Bellevue member for as long as anyone can remember, and remains active, shown here negotiating with Les KFK.



Les WB0KFK & Tom WD0BFO