



Printed Circuit



– August 2011 –

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>

Mondamin Cancelled

Alan KC0KJR sent out an E-Mail Sunday 08/14 to announce due to the effect of flooding, the BVARC is canceling the Mondamin Hamfest scheduled for mid-September.

Darn! It was always a good one. The BVARC people are especially friendly and one of their innovations was 'Flea Bucks' given as a lesser door prize, coupons that could be spent at any one of the vendors, a great idea popular with both buyers and sellers. Typically \$20 at a time.

SWIARC mtg @ I.S.D.

We're meeting at ISD again. ISD is just South of the intersection of **Hwys 92 & 275** in Co/Blfs. Go around back.



Terry KS0L w/flood maps at July meeting

The Action – 2011

- Aug 25** SWIARC Meeting @ ISD
Thur Hwys 92 & 275, So.Co/Blfs
7:30 talk-in 146.82 R-
- Sep 10** Homebrew & QRP meeting
Sat Bredeaux Pizza/Ashland NE
11-2
- Sep 17** St. Joseph MO Hamfest \$5
Sat at American Legion
9-3 talk-in 146.85 PL 100
(I-29 exit 47, East 1 mi.)
- Sep 18** MONDAMIN Hamfest - NOTT
Sun They cancelled it
due to the flood.
- Sep 22** SWIARC Meeting
Thur probably still at ISD
7:30
- Oct 08** Homebrew & QRP club mtg
Sat Bredeaux Pizza in Ashland
11-2
- Oct 22** SERGEANT BLUFF Hamfest
Sat 'HAMBOREE' by 3900 club
903 Topaz Dr, Sgt Bluff
- Oct 27** SWIARC meeting 4th Thurs
Thur possibly still at ISD
7:30

Meeting Minutes 07/28

We met at ISD again in July. Present were:

Rick	KE4YQD		
Mike	KD0HZF	Russ	K0LUW
& LaVone		Rob	N0SNW
Tyler	KD0JAR	Dennis	WA0VJL
Norm	WA0JYD	Rich	WA0ZQG
Terry	KS0L	(10)	

Rick YQD started right off with more thanks to Dennis VJL and his wife for the meeting space. Then we 'adopted the Minutes' as printed and accepted for audit (remotely because Jim W0ATU wasn't there), a Treasurer's report of \$5,399.

Correspondence received included a QSL card from Slovenia to Station Trustee Russ LUW who used our K0SWI call during a contest. (Active members may do the same by prearranging with Russ.) The guy in Slovenia was on the fourth floor of an apartment house using one of those three (3) foot wide HF dipoles with monster (3ft) spiral coils that act as capacity hats on each end. It's NOT an effective antenna. Difficult contact.

We all agreed Steve KD0HVY did a real nice job on the newsletter even though some content wasn't provided to him until a little past the last minute. Mailed copies are going to be late this month. Membership Comm. added Ryan KB0TKZ who lives in Papillion NE.

The .82 repeater still works, but has the same hum problem that showed up after someone stole ground wires from the remote tower site. Could we reinstall the wires? Uh. Liability? Tell the site owner again.

Though the club did not do Field Day, Rich ZQG did, a 20M dipole ten feet up across his driveway put up with help from Rick YQD and Justin KC0WPR who then went South toward Glenwood and put up a couple of stations. Rich made 87 SSB contacts while Rick & Justin did around 200 including digital ones using a Kenwood 2000 on voice, and both Yaesu 857D and Icom 751 for digital. Their antennas went up 70ft.

Rick YQD showed video of Justin putting up their Field Day antennas on the 4in. screen of his Android cell phone.

Under **New Business** Norm JYD suggested the Treasurer get a receipt book and give or mail each member such when he pays. We discussed that a bit, good idea, but more detail work for the volunteer member. (They do it in Omaha.)

Our current Member Database is on an old program that only runs under DOS. (You have to have an older computer with no later system than DOS, or an early Windows system that'll run DOS.) Rick YQD said "I can do that" regarding converting the data (comma delimited file) to something newer. Norm JYD "withdrew" his proposal to require the dues receipt book for consideration next month.

Three local Hams appeared in QST magazine August 2011 issue: Ron K0IC on p.51, Dale N0XAS on p.65, and Lori AA0BS p.74 the DX Honor Roll because she has 337 of 338 countries.

Terry KS0L and Norm JYD each had a couple of announcements for events this month.

Meeting adjourned 8:13PM.
Minutes by Sec'y's Assistant, WA0ZQG

Pgm. Reviews

Rick YQD has an 'App' on his Android phone that shows where Amateur satellites are. Hold the phone up to the sky and it 'prints' a star map with the Satellites highlighted. Neat thing is it shows the sky as you turn East, South, etc. or point it straight up. Valid display day or night. Satellites at that moment were HO68 and SO67.

Terry KS0L had a flood map of Council Bluffs. Shows which areas would be under water given floods of 2ft, 4ft, 6ft, and so on. Large areas of West and South Council Bluffs are kind of flat and thus susceptible.

Glenwood Hamfest Rpt.

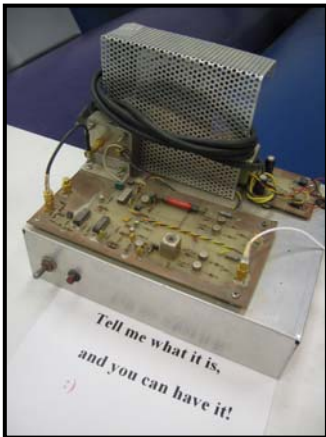
They did everything right for the first annual Hamfest put on by Heartland Hams in Glenwood IA mid-August. “Hello” name tags and only \$3 admission plus donuts and real food for sale were well received. Turnout was decent as there weren't many empty tables, but one really important addition was Les WB0KFK showing up with his D&L Antenna display of assorted products. They also had door prizes including a Tram 1480 dual band vertical.

Among HF rigs were a Kenwood 830 offered by Nick KC0YKO (sold for \$225); an Elecraft K2 from Steve N0ORU, and an ICOM 740. Nick still has the matching tuner and remote VFO for the 830, models AT-230 & VFO 240 at \$75 each.



Les KFK waves to camera

Way in the back was a homemade item, a nice aluminum chassis with power supply on the rear; a crystal oscillator module, and a home-made board with several 2N2219 transistors, single 'IF' can, and gold coated SMA connectors in and out. The sign by it said, “Identify it and it's yours.” (Maybe a programmable UHF oscillator? One of the ICs was a 54LS90, low-power shottky digital counter.)



Home-made whatchacallit

SWIARC members Russ K0LUW and Dennis WA0VJM sat out front eating at one point. Russ who is a CW operator said some newbie bought a rig with a CW filter in it “but the code kept coming through anyway.”

This fest had one of everything including a Heathkit Keyer with incorporated paddles and a newer light-brown Heath audio signal generator that sold early. (I took a picture, turned around, and it wasn't there when I looked back.)



Heath Audio Gen

Dual band radios included a Kenwood D-700 with integral APRS function and TM-732A hooked to an Astron 12. A newer trunk mount (black) Motorola said to have Amateur freqs programmed in was capable of 110W out. Rob KD0DDU bought it for \$50 and has been using it at full power, checking into local repeaters from Fremont NE and further out.

Mike KB0THC who moved to Glenwood from Omaha several years ago displayed not only a variety of radios and service gear, shown here with a TV high voltage probe, but also had a couple of computers for sale. His XYL Sharon is KCOSIA and you can occasionally hear them on .52.



Mike KB0THC

Echo Link on .82

Yuki JA9PPH used an Echo-Link connection (via Internet) to call into our Council Bluffs .82 repeater this month. His English was pretty good but due to the accent and slight distortion not all these facts are clear, also that he ended the QSO after a few minutes.

He lives 350 'clicks' North of Tokyo and was a salesman at a local shopping center until he retired. Nice 'signal' from Japan.

de 146.82 R-

Hot Sun

Peter KE7RDM is a Junior at Creighton U. in Omaha, and hails from Arizona. Checking into one of recent nets in late July when temps were in the upper 90s, Peter mentioned the time he left an ICOM 91AD H/T on the dash of his car in Arizona. Put between the windshield reflector and window, the radio was too hot to pick up when he returned, and never worked after that. He thinks the solder may have melted.

Reflecting on that conclusion, RDM now says it may have been battery failure. (Solder melts somewhere north of 350 d. F.)

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newsletter is published monthly by SWIARC Inc. of Council Bluffs IA. Club officers for 2011 are:

PRESIDENT KE4YQD

Rick KE4YQD @ Hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT KB0QKH

John kb0qkh @ yahoo.com

SECRETARY KD0HVY

Steve Steve.A.Thomas @ HP.com

TREASURER W0ATU

Jim W0ATU @ YAHOO.com

STATION TRUSTEE K0LUW

Russ K0LUW @ Cox.net

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in radio. Dues are \$15 / calendar year.

.82 Repeater Works

But it didn't for awhile after the Thursday night storm 08/18 when there was a lot of lightning and golf ball to baseball (hardball) size hail all across town. The Polyphaser AC line protector took a big hit, shorted out and blew the circuit breaker.

Station Trustee and repeater fixer Russ K0LUW was quick to make a trip to the repeater site, figure out the problem and plug our equipment into the wall socket bypassing the destroyed Polyphaser. Russ notified certain members via E-Mail saying he needed help replacing the surge protector. Mechanical problems. In the mean time, the .82 repeater works.

info de E-Mail

And: A new 110V / 15A surge protector has been ordered from DX Engineering. Russ H. (LUW)

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!