

# **STATIC SHEET**

## Wrapping up 2012, kicking off 2013



The DMRAA held its annual Chili Feed and Auction on November 19 at the St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Johnston. The feed included multiple varieties of chili for your tasting and the auction also included a wide variety of rigs and other gear.



The Christmas party was held in the Waveland Hall of Plymouth Congregational Church on December 4 where DMRAA members and their families enjoyed the the potluck dishes that took up several long tables. The Winthrop Mager Award was presented to

Dennis O'Brien KA0DOS by Wynell Mager-Kisner, the daughter of the late Rev. Winthrop Mager W0MJH, for whom the award is named after.

The National Weather Service will be on hand for a one-two punch in January and February. January's meeting will be held on the 22nd

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### Officers and Board

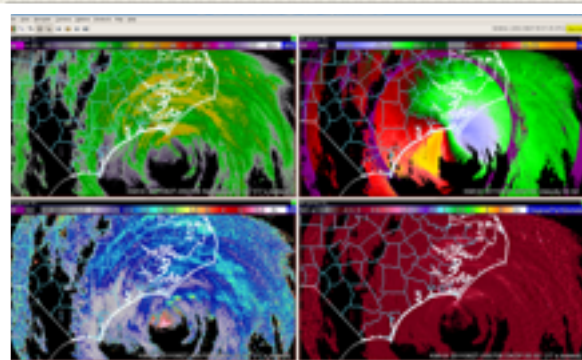
Kevin Sanders	KØKDS President
George Noble	KK7FM Vice-President
Mark Globuschutz	K0MJG Secretary
Bill Claypool	NUØQ Treasurer
Bruce Brumm	KCØZMT
Ron Hobbs	NØXWI
Scott Kirstein	N0OOD
Dennis O'Brien	KAØDOS
Ben Sinclair	KCØZMX

# Wrapping up 2012, kicking off 2013

*Continued from page 1*

when the NWS presents the topic of the new dual-polarization technology the Des Moines NWS office is now using. They will show us how to interpret the new dual-polarization data and also how to interpret the traditional reflectivity data. Everybody is welcome, including the public and non-amateur radio operators. The presentation begins at 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church at 42nd and Ingersoll in the Waveland Hall.

The NWS will return on February 26 for the annual spotter training session at 7 p.m. A brief Mid-Iowa Skywarn Association meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. to elect officers and discuss business. Please note that these meetings on February 26 will be held in the third-floor recital hall at Plymouth Congregational Church -- NOT the usual meeting room. Everybody is welcome, including the public and non-amateur radio operators.



## President's Soapbox

By Kevin Sanders K0KDS

What a spectacular year the DMRAA had in 2012! We ended the year with a significant amount of snow (finally!) on the ground and we're already eager to shake the cabin fever blues off and go outside and play.

As we start to approach major upcoming events such as the DMRAA Hamfest on April 20 and Field Day June 22-23, consider making a late new year's resolution (as many of you may have already given up on your earlier resolutions) to lend your skills, expertise, leadership, and your smile to the club. It's no small feat to pull off our annual events throughout the year, and with your help we can make these events better.

There are several ways you can help lead the club throughout the year. The number one way is to hold office on the DMRAA board. This year's ballot will be prepared and presented in April of this year with the election held in May. We will have many opportunities for candidates to run

for open positions this spring. If you are interested in learning more about opportunities on the board, please feel free to e-mail me at [info@dmraa.com](mailto:info@dmraa.com) or via phone at (515) 999-0-HAM (999-0426). The only prerequisite is a positive attitude and a willingness to help!

Of course, there are other ways to help the club. We could always use extra manpower at our special events. With many hands makes light work! This could involve helping set up tables or with ticketing at the hamfest, setting up stations or raising antennas at Field Day, or helping the auctioneer at the chili feed and auction. Or perhaps you could suggest (or even present!) a topic at one of our monthly general meetings. If you can help, the board and myself would love to hear about it!

Every amateur radio club relies on its community to make the club the best it can be. Judging by the banner year we had in 2012, we must have the best ham community!



# What is it? #5

By Larry KA0FTO

What is in figure 1 below? This one should be easier than the last one. This item was very popular about 20 years ago and is getting more difficult to find. Many of us old timers have a collection of these and do not know what to do with them but continue to save them. (Argh, I just admitted I am an old timer.)

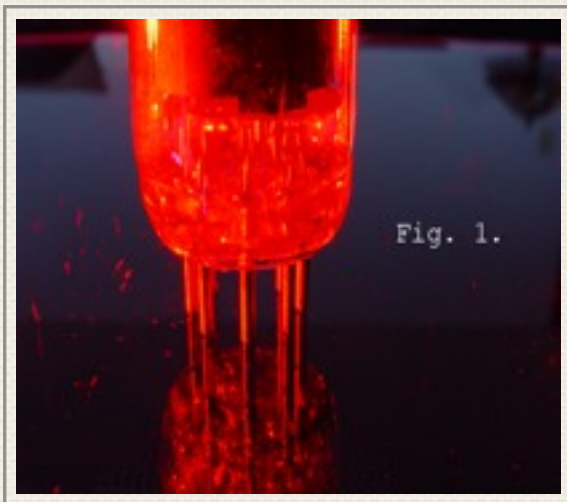


Figure 2 from What is it? #4



Many of you knew what it is. It is an old telephone receiver used in the old wall type wooden phones that had a crank that you spun to ring the operator or others on your party line. The receiver can still be seen in some old black and white movies on candle stick phones. These receivers were extremely sensitive and worked great in a crystal radio. These were electric not electronic!

73 from Larry KA0FTO



# New Ham: What should my first radio be?

Tom Reis - N0VPR

It has been 20 years for me, but after I passed my exam for Technician I do remember that question. I had a month to think about it as I waited for my license to arrive. I actually trusted my brother George KE7MJ, an advanced class ham that lived in Portland for advice. My first radio was an Icom 2SRA HT with a separate wide band receiver. This radio had two antennas, yes two, one for 2 meters and another for the separate general coverage receiver. I managed to break off the smaller antenna several times before I made a beefy modification. So why did I buy this one? My brother sold it to me and assured me it was the one for me. I didn't keep it too long. Then again neither did he!

The reason I mention this is to make a point about choices. Think seriously about what you need in your first radio. I hope to offer a few suggestions (from my perspective) to help you.

Things to consider:

- Your available funds
- Your location
- Your skill level
- Future wants
- Participation in ARES events
- New or used

Obviously it will take a little money to get started. Be honest with yourself and set a budget. Once you have a number, you'll have an idea on what to base your search. There are both expensive and inexpensive radios on the market today. Know what the pros and cons are with these radios. Generally the major brands have better instruction manuals. This can be important.

For many it seems starting with an HT makes sense. However if you are several miles away from your nearest repeater you'll probably need a radio with more than 5 watts. If you live in the Des Moines area consider what repeaters are available and which are close to you. Also ker-chunking a repeater doesn't guarantee that others will hear you. The DMRAA Frequency Programming Guide on the DMRAA.com website should help you.

There are some really fantastic radios available that can be very intimidating for a new ham. Consider this before you dive in. Many of the radios today are programmable with a computer. This feature can be helpful with a more complicated radio. Perhaps a simple radio makes sense for a starting radio.

When you look at a few of seasoned operators you'll notice they have more than one radio. This allows them to be flexible and to accommodate different needs. An HT is a radio you can take anywhere and get hands on learning

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# New Ham: What should my first radio be?

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most any time. A mobile or a base will have more power but will require an outside antenna. After a couple of months of using an HT you'll have a better idea what features you'll want in a more expensive mobile or base. Do you plan on helping with the Des Moines Marathon, Dam to Dam or other events with ARES, Amateur Radio Emergency Service? (We sure hope so). If so consider a dual-band radio as both bands are used frequently for these events. This also allows use on 3 or 4 additional repeaters in the Des Moines area. Also plan on getting an extended gain antenna when you buy the HT, you'll certainly need it and net control will thank you. New or used may depend on the funding question. With new \$50 HTs you would not need to wait for the right used radio. You tend to get what you pay for, so be prepared to give and take a little. The DMRAA and ARTS clubs have yearly auctions and often produce a good radio at a great price. Of course Hamfests and ham flea markets are a good bet too.

**Recommendations:** Look at what others are using. Ask questions of more than one ham. You'll get different answers. I have owned several different radios and some (like the Icom 2SRA) I don't have any more, for good reason.

**Rational thoughts:** Think ahead. Buying radios of a similar brand will generally program the same way. How many sets of instructions can you remember? Also similar radios will often use the same accessories, a money saver. By the way I always use NMO mounts for my mobile antennas, that way they are interchangeable.

**After you buy:** Talk to a seasoned ham and ask for some help getting your radio set up. This will get you going in the right direction.

So what do I recommend? Whatever used radio I am looking to sell Hi Hi!

73,  
Tom, NØVPR

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## Charity Balloon Flight

After over one year of planning and preparation, I am ready for the cancer flight. It is for raising money for the American Cancer Society and will be 200-500 miles in distance. The flight is one flight, one day and will take place between now and March and will have a live tracking device. Go to my website at [www.tecvisions.org](http://www.tecvisions.org) and click on the Charity Flight page for more information. Donations are more than \$3,200 and for those who have donated, thank you very much. Help support this flight and have a wonderful Christmas.

Thank You,  
Tim Cloyd



# 2012 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day

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The annual SKYWARN™ Recognition Day was held at the NWS office in Johnston, IA on Friday, Nov. 30, 2012 into Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012 as a way of saying “Thank you” to amateur radio operators for providing severe weather and other hazardous weather reports along with providing emergency communications. This most recent annual event was very successful especially in the number of hams, other interested parties and children that stopped by the office Friday evening and during the day Saturday. Over 60 people stopped by to say “hello”, use the radios, and have a bit of food and drink with Friday evening especially busy

This year, we contacted 40 states and 45 other NWS offices which is pretty good – around 40% of the total field NWS sites. Although our total QSO numbers have remained low (this year around 270 QSOs) as in the past several years, there is still a lot of fun and practice when we do make contacts. Full information about this most recent event can be found at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

Finally, thanks to all the amateur radio operators who stopped by to take part in the event. It was good to see each and every one of you, some of you for the first time. A special thank you to Kevin Sanders K0KDS for reaching out to area hams and for providing more radios to use and also to Tom Reis, N0VPR, for helping to organize and reach out to area hams as well as giving many tours of Operations.

I hope to see you again for the 2013 Special Event.  
73,

Shane Searcy, N0ZXJ – NWS Des Moines.



You now have the option of paying for up to 3 years when renewing your membership in the DMRAA:

1 Year = \$20

2 Years = \$40

3 Years = \$60

See Bill Claypool NØUQ for details.

# Polk County ARES

## Scott Kirstein - NØOOD

I hope 2013 is off to great start for each of you, and that you got some rest and relaxation in with those close to you.

The first meeting of Polk County ARES for 2013 will be held on Monday, February 4 at 7:00pm at the Polk County EOC, 1907 Carpenter. We will go over the events we are committed to doing, as well as discussing opportunities for event leadership positions for the upcoming year.

Also at this meeting, we will update our contact information and walk through the Polk County ARES Activation Plan.

## 2013 ARES Event Schedule

Fight For Air Climb – April 7th  
Drake Relays - April 25th - 27th  
Market to Market Relay – May 11th  
MS Walk - May 18th  
Dam to Dam June 1st  
ARRL Field Day - June 22nd-23rd  
Camp Sunnyside Walk With Me - June 22nd  
Camp Sunnyside Regatta - July 18th  
State Fair Parade August - 7th  
Head of Des Moines Rowing Regatta - September 28th  
Asthma Walk - TBD  
Des Moines Marathon - October 20th  
Living History Farms Cross Country Race – November 23

## 2013 Meetings

Monday, February 4	7:00pm
Monday, April 15	7:00pm
Monday, July 22	7:00pm
Monday, October 14	7:00pm

All at the Polk County EOC 1907 Carpenter Ave.

Scott Kirstein  
NØOOD  
Polk County ARES EC  
515 490-7414 (cell)  
[n0ood@arrl.net](mailto:n0ood@arrl.net)



## DMRAA Membership

Remember that dues for 2013 are due now. You can pay in person at any meeting or send your check through the mail.

Membership is \$20.00 per person per year, and you can pay for up to three years in advance (a great way to not forget!). There is a renewal form on the last page of this Static Sheet, and the club's address is listed there as well.

## Area Nets

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### Ames

Sunday	147.240+	7:00pm	Story County ARES Net
Wednesday	147.375+ t114.8	9:00pm	Cyclone Amateur Radio Club

### Boone

Sunday	146.850-	9:00pm	Boone County ARES Net
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### Des Moines

Sunday	146.610- t114.8	8:00pm	Central Iowa ARES Net
Sunday	146.940- t114.8	follows ARES	Central Iowa Technical Net
Sunday	146.610- t114.8	9:00pm	ARTS Net
Wednesday	146.610- t114.8	11:00pm	Night Owls Net
Thursday	146.940- t114.8	7:00pm	Polk County ARES Net

### Marshalltown

Sunday	147.135+ t141.3	6:00pm	CIRAS Net
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### Perry

Monday	145.190- t114.8	8:00pm	Dallas County ARES Net
Monday	145.190- t114.8	follows ARES	HARC Net

### Webster City

Monday	147.015+	7:00pm	Hamilton County Radio Club Net
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### Statewide Nets

Mon-Sat	3.970	12:30pm & 5:30pm (6:00pm summer)	Iowa 75 Meter Traffic Net
Sunday	3.970	5:30pm (6:00pm summer)	Iowa Traffic and Emergency Net
Monday	3.990.5	5:30pm (1st Monday of the month)	Iowa RACES Net
Sunday	1.973	9:30pm	Iowa 160M ARES Net

#### **ARES Nets serve several purposes:**

- Operator training
- Training of Net control operators
- Passing formal traffic

Please check in!



# 2012 Winthrop Mager Award

Congratulations to Dennis O'Brien KA0DOS, the recipient of the 2012 Winthrop Mager Award!

Dennis was instrumental in the process of finding a new location for the very successful 2012 DMRAA/ARTS Field Day and also serves on the DMRAA education committee, where he coordinates and teaches various classes and study groups. Dennis is active throughout the year with the Polk County Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

In addition to being a general-class ham, Dennis earned degrees in geology from Cornell College, Miami

University (Ohio), and the University of Massachusetts. Students at Drake University called him "Rock Doc" during 33 years of teaching geology there.

Dennis obtained his novice-class license in 1977 after DMRAA classes at the old Science Center of Iowa in Greenwood Park.

Dennis upgraded to general-class after adult education classes in the 1990's with Bill Schemmel, Dave Johnson, and Don Whitmer as some of the instructors.

Previously, Dennis volunteered with the Science Center of Iowa at their ham station, W0SCI.

Dennis enjoys golfing, handbell-ringing, and traveling by motorhome with his wife Sandy.

The award was presented by Wynell Mager-Kisner, the daughter of the late Rev. Winthrop Mager, for whom the award was named after, at the annual DMRAA Christmas Party on December 4 in Des Moines.

The purpose of the Winthrop Mager Award is to perpetuate the memory of the Rev. Winthrop Mager W0MJH, and to stimulate the activity in all fields of amateur radio in the central Iowa area.

Any radio operator with any class license who is a member of the Des Moines Radio Amateurs Association is eligible.

Nominations are due by the end of the November meeting each year. Nominees are those amateur operators that have



shown outstanding support for amateur radio, promotion of the amateur radio service and have done so with the utmost respect for the community and fellow operators.

The next award to be presented by the DMRAA will be the Bob Evans Award, which will be presented at the DMRAA Hamfest on April 20. The candidates will be nominated by and the recipient will be chosen by the DMRAA officers and board.

Congratulations again, Dennis!

# Tom's Tips

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It is colder than a Banker's heart outside and I don't feel like training for the next Iditarod So I decided to do something productive. It has been a couple of months since I went over my go-bag in the car. (yes, I do this several times a year)! Today is the day. Time to check the extra batteries I carry AA, AAA, D and 9v. They check fine. I also put my 12v booster pack on the charger for a top up. I run through the usual tools and fuses to make sure I have not used or lost any. I also check the extra set of clothes, socks and jacket, blanket and ARES reflective vest, yup all there. I do not keep food in the kit, but do keep some water in the car. I replaced it today. While I'm in the garage I get the DeOx

spray and clean the antenna contacts on the car, both the mounts and antennas. A little preventative maintenance goes a long ways.

When I get in this mood I also make sure I have user guides, notes and the mini first aid kit stocked, Band-Aids especially ready as well. While I'm not likely to need it, I keep a hard hat in my kit too. I'll doubt ever be on a tower again but I can see myself helping the ground crew. I keep a well-stocked tool kit, but I just went thru it two weeks ago.

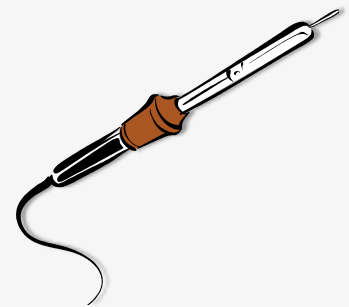
One last thing is to check the memories in the radios. I try to keep the ARES frequencies current as well as the local

repeaters. This information can be found at [DMRRA.com](http://DMRRA.com).

There I go, living the Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared"

73,

Tom, NØVPR



# 2012 DMRAA Calendar

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## General Meetings and Events

January 22 - General meeting  
February 5 - Board meeting  
February 26 - General meeting  
March 5 - Board meeting  
March 26 - General meeting  
April 2 - Board meeting  
April 20 - DMRAA Hamfest  
April 23 - General meeting  
May 7 - Board meeting  
May 28 - General meeting  
June 4 - Board meeting  
June 22-23 - Field Day  
June 25 - General meeting  
July 2 - Board meeting  
July 23 - General meeting  
August 6 - Board meeting  
August 27 - General meeting  
September 3 - Board meeting  
September 24 - General meeting  
October 1 - Board meeting  
October 22 - General meeting  
November 5 - Board meeting  
November 26 - General meeting

## Testing Sessions

**02/09/2013**

Boone

Boone Amateur Radio Klub

Kruck P&H Warehouse Classroom

9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**02/23/2013**

Perry

Winter RF Fest

Crossroads Church

10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**03/09/2013**

Ames

Cyclone ARC

Howe Hall - Room 1304

10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**03/17/2013**

Des Moines

Johnstone Supply Company Classroom

1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

### **Hungry and looking to meet local hams?**

Friday's at the City Buffet

on University (next to

Toys R Us) a group of

hams meet for lunch.

This is an informal

meeting and provides an

excellent opportunity to pass information while

enjoying a nice selection of Chinese cuisine. The

group usually arrives around 11:45 and breaks up at

about 1:00. All are welcome, including family

members.





# October Board Meeting Minutes

## DMRAA Board Meeting

November 06, 2012

Convened at 7:00 P.M.

### In Attendance:

Kevin Sanders K0KDS – Pres  
Bruce Brumm KC0ZMT– Board  
Bill Claypool NU0Q – Treas  
Dennis O'Brian KA0DOS- Board  
Mark Globuschutz K0MJG – Sect  
Tom Reis N0VPR  
George Noble KK7FM – VP  
Scott Kirstein N0OOD - Board  
Ron Hobbs N0XWI – Board  
Ben Sinclair KC0ZMX – Board

#### 1. Review of the minutes from October.

Motion to approve = Dennis; Seconded = Ron,  
motion carried

#### 2. Treasurer's Report = \$ 10,380.35

#### 3. Unfinished Business

- a. Chili Feed –November 19; Mark identified that he can not attend the event and would be unable to provide a roaster of chili. Scott K volunteered to bring two roasters.

#### b. Christmas Party – December 4;

- i. Dennis has asked the Bell Choir to perform at the party and they accepted.
- ii. A Spiral Cut ham from HyVee will be obtained for the party
- iii. The Choir will eat early so they can perform during the membership meal.
- iv. The membership meal will start at 6:00 and the program will start at 7:00.

- v. Attendees will be asked to bring a hot dish, cold dish and their table service.

- vi. Dennis will get Poinsettias for the table decorations.

#### 4. New Business

- a. There was a brief discussion on the age of the current 94 repeater and its reliability.
- b. Ron provided a letter from Tim Cloyd regarding his plans for a Balloon Cancer Flight and his desire to facilitate communications for HAM operators from the Balloon. It was recommended that Tim produce something for the Static Sheet describing the planned event. Ron will forward on the information to Tim.

#### 5. Polk county ARES update

- a. Living History Farms race Nov 17

#### 6. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Ham Fest – none
- b. Field Day – none
- c. Repeaters & Packet – none
- d. Education – still have 9 students in the Tech. class and have 2 weeks left. One for classwork and one for testing. Questions were asked regarding any future General classes that are planned because the students have expressed an interest in continuing on to their General.
- e. Programming
  - i. Nov – Chili Feed

*Continued...*

- ii. Dec – Christmas Party – 1<sup>st</sup> Tues  
in December, Dec. 4.
  - iii. Jan – Dual Pole weather radar  
intrepretation
  - f. Communications & Public Relations
  - g. Membership
  - h. Awards
  - i. Chili Feed & Auction – see above
  - j. Christmas Party - see above
  - k. Questions, Comments, Additions??
7. Adjournment – Motion = Scott, seconded Ron;  
motion carried.
- 



# DES MOINES RADIO AMATEURS ASSOCIATION

The Static sheet is bi-monthly (six per year) publication of the Des Moines Radio Amateurs Association. It is provided via email to the membership of the DMRAA. Please feel free to forward to prospective club members and interested Amateur Radio Operators.

The DMRAA is affiliated with the ARRL,

The national association for Amateur Radio.

Des Moines Radio Amateurs Assn.

P.O. Box 88

Des Moines, IA 50301

DMRAA.com

E-mail: [info@dmraa.com](mailto:info@dmraa.com)



## Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: (E) (A) (G) (T)

ARRL Member?    Y / N

What are your primary interests in amateur radio? \_\_\_\_\_

What are you interested in learning about? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to volunteer with the club? \_\_\_\_\_

Dues:

\$20 Single

\$40 2 years

\$60 3 years

Mail application and payment to:

**DMRAA**

P.O. Box 88

Des Moines, IA 50301

Email: [info@dmraa.com](mailto:info@dmraa.com)