

## OFFICERS

- Kevin Sanders KØKDS  
President
- George Noble KK7FM  
Vice-President
- Kirk Nelson WL7CLI  
Secretary
- Bill Claypool NUØQ  
Treasurer

## BOARD

- Bruce Brumm KCØZMT
- Ron Hobbs NØXWI
- Chuck Hoveland WØIBG
- Dennis O'Brien KAØDOS
- Ben Sinclair KCØZMX

## IN THIS ISSUE

Hamfest 9  
Photos

ARES 3

Calendar 4

President's 4  
Soapbox

Testing 5

Board 7-8  
Minutes

Membership 13  
Application

Check out  
"Origins" on  
page 12

## 2011 Hamfest

We had an excellent turnout at this year's DMRAA Hamfest! Over 400 were in attendance for the event, where the DMRAA gave out nearly \$1000 in door prizes and several attendees sat for VE testing and several new technician licenses were earned along with many hams that upgraded their license.

Attendees were graced with clear skies and seasonable temperatures all day. This was the first year the DMRAA has held the event in the recently-renovated Elwell Center at the Iowa State Fairgrounds to accommodate for the Hamfest's growth.

Several vendors from throughout the midwest set up shop at the Hamfest, including D&L Antennas, Radio City, Amateur Acces-

sories, DC Ace Electronics, WØTOK Books, The RF Adapter Guy, and others!

The ARRL Midwest Division and ARRL Iowa Section also had a booth for meeting-and-greeting with Rod Blocksome KØDAS and Tom Brehmer NØLOH, respectively.

The DMRAA Hamfest committee and the board would like to thank all those that attended and all the vendors -- without you, the Hamfest wouldn't be possible!

We are already lining up vendors and planning for next year's Hamfest, which will be held on

April 21, again at the Elwell Center at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. If you would like to join the DMRAA Hamfest committee to help plan next year's event, see a DMRAA board member in-person or contact the board on the club's website. Keep an eye on the DMRAA website at <http://www.dmraa.com> for developments in the coming months!



Dan Lawton KDØFSP and brand new ham, son Ben KDØOLT

## Field Day 25-26, 2011

The DMRAA and ARTS will again host combined Field Day activities. New this year is the location, Camp Dodge in Johnston. The committee has tried for several years to move the activities to a more 'conspicuous' location. The exact location will be at dining facility 3. There will be signs posted. We will again be a class 2a station with a Get on the Air station as well.

Set up will begin at 9AM Saturday morning with the start time of 1PM until 1PM on Sunday. This promises to be a fun

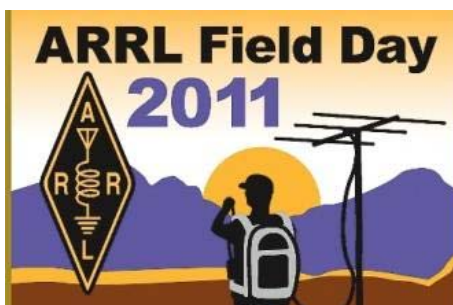
time and of course a new location will present some challenges.

The committee feels that we could have quite a few visits from the general public as they see our antennas and equipment. The stations themselves will be in the dining facility and thus "climate"

controlled! Lunch will be provided to the set up crew and all hams are welcomed and encouraged to bring a hot and a cold dish for the evening pot luck. The clubs will provide the donuts and breakfast items for Sunday morning.

This is a great opportunity to bring a non-ham and show them a little about our service / hobby. See you Saturday the 25th.

Note: A photo ID will be required to enter Camp Dodge. You must use the NW 70th gate.





Come enjoy the fellowship

DMRAA  
meetings are  
the 4th  
Tuesday of  
the month.  
Be sure and  
mark your  
calendars!



# Upcoming Meetings

June 28th 7:00 PM

Plymouth Congregational Church  
42nd & Ingersoll  
Waveland Room

June's program will be on PSK presented  
by Larry Zimmer, KAØFTO, and Mark  
Campbell, WØGZR.

## Club Logo Wear Available Online

Interested in showing your DMRAA pride?  
Check out Gold Medal ideas at <http://www.goldmedalideas.com/shop/item.aspx?itemid=366>

This will take you to the polo shirt page, but caps, jackets and other items are available with the DMRAA logo.



## Future Meetings

George, KK7FM is looking for meeting ideas and presenters. Please feel free to make suggestions and offer to help with a presentation.

## You can Help?



Are you interested in helping the club? There are many ways you can help. Assisting with an event, taking a few pictures or even writing a piece for this newsletter.



## Recent Meetings

April's general meeting was presented by Larry Vandewater NØKBK on the topic of building and linking repeater systems. Larry showed us pictures of various repeater systems and spoke about how the linked network works. He also talked about how to build repeaters without needing to spend too much money. May's meeting featured the DMRAA's own Dean Madsen NØXR with an updated presenta-

tion of Field Day 101. Dean's presentation showed us what Field Day is all about and how to get on the air at Field Day using best HF operating practices. For more information on Field Day, see the Field Day article in this issue of the Static Sheet! Annual elections were also held at the May meeting, which shuffled some roles on the DMRAA board. Kevin Sanders KØKDS, who was the vice presi-

dent, was elected to president, and George Noble KK7FM, who was the president was elected to the vice president position. Ben Sinclair KØZMX was elected to a two-year term as a DMRAA officer. Ben develops applications for the iPhone and is a General-class ham based out of Waukee. All other board members and officers remain in their same positions.



### Giving back through community service

Scott Kirstien  
NØOOD  
Polk County ARES EC  
515 490-7414 (cell)  
nood@arrl.net

Polk County ARES Meetings  
Polk County EOC at  
1907 Carpenter Avenue  
Des Moines, IA



# Polk County ARES



Since our last visit, Polk County ARES has provided communications for the American Lung Association's Fight For Air Climb, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's MS Walk, and the Dam to Dam. As I write this, we are making preparations for the Easter Seals Walk With Me event on June 23. If you have missed out on these events, don't be discouraged there are still many more events to come, and plenty of opportunities to help out. I had a non-ham ask me about why we do these events. "They're not emergencies," he says. I told him that the reason we do them is primarily to help out the agencies and serve the public. (Incidentally, for the runner at Dam-to-Dam who ended up in the hospital – it probably seemed like an emergency.) But I also mentioned to him that it gives the group unique training opportunities – identifying areas where repeater coverage isn't as good as it should be, seeing where our equipment needs some upgrading through new

antennas, headsets, extra batteries, etc. Outside of the "race season," ARES has also participated in the National Disaster Medical Service Drill. For our part, the training hours we have put in as a group have given us the opportunity to be successful in a "real-life" drill. That is not to say, we didn't take away some "Growth Opportunities." And at least for this operator, there were definitely some times during the drill where I thought "Oh, THAT's what they meant in the article." (I'm sure I wasn't alone in these "a-ha" moments.)

I am very appreciative of the time Polk County ARES personnel have given to help out with these events; I am also excited to see new people helping out. For Dam-to-Dam we had several newly licensed operators and one non-ham (who has started studying for his Technician license) help out.

If you have not gotten involved with ARES yet, give

me a call or send me an email and we can get you involved with as little pain as possible. You can also just show up to the next ARES meeting, July 11 at 7:00pm. The location will be the Polk County EOC at 1907 Carpenter.

Scott  
(515) 490-7414  
NØOOD@arrl.net



## ARES MEETING DATES

July 11, 2011  
October 10, 2011



## 2011 ARES Events

ARRL Field Day - June 25 - 26  
Flatland Youth Festival  
July 17  
Big Creek Triathlon - August 14  
State Fair Parade August - 10  
Asthma Walk - TBD  
Big Creek Triathlon - August 14  
Head of Des Moines Rowing  
Regatta September - 24

Get Your Rear In Gear 5K run  
October - 1  
Asthma Walk - October 1  
Des Moines Marathon  
October - 16  
Living History Farms Cross  
Country Race November - 19

# 2011 DMRAA Calendar

## DMRAA

### 28 June, 2011

Plymouth Congregational  
Church

42nd & Ingersoll  
Des Moines

7:00PM

Waveland Room

June's program will be on PSK  
presented by Larry Zimmer,  
KAØFTO, and Mark Campbell,  
WØGZR.

## Calendar 2011

### General Meetings and Events

28 June, 2011

26 July, 2011

23 August, 2011

27 September, 2011

25 October, 2011

**22 November, 2011**

**Chili Feed / Auction**

**7 December, 2011**

**Christmas Party**

24 January, 2012

28 February, 2012

27 March, 2012

### 21 April, 2012 Hamfest

24 April, 2012

### Board Meeting Dates

5 July, 2011

2 August, 2011

6 September, 2011

4 October, 2011

1 November, 2011

3 January, 2012

7 February, 2012

6 March, 2012

3 April, 2012



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.

## President's Soapbox

As amateur radio operators, we're willing to talk to strangers -- from either our area on VHF or around the world on our HF bands. We're always willing to try new modes. We're always willing to take a risk and upgrade our licenses to the next level. We'll meet with complete strangers and share our passion the hobby with the public on Field Day.

But are we stepping out of our comfort zones enough?

I'll admit, when Tom Reis NØVPR, then-president of the DMRAA tapped me to run for vice president when I was still a fairly recently-minted tech in 2009, I thought he was crazy. After all, I was still new to the club and I was still learning the ins-and-outs of the hobby. I was both skeptical and excited at the same time about the opportunity.

After sitting in on a board meeting, I realized it wouldn't be that bad after all. It's not one single person that carries the club, and it's not ten people carrying the club, either. It's the entire DMRAA membership

that makes the difference.

I've been lucky enough in the past two years as the vice president to be backed by a great board and an excellent membership base. And now I'm a little bit more experienced and a little bit more enlightened. We're just coming off of one of our most successful Hamfests in recent decades and we're now on the heels of our annual Field Day event. These are certainly our two biggest events of the year, and they both take months of planning.

Both events show that everyone contributes something, no matter how small of a role it may be. You don't have to be on the board to contribute something. It may be something like helping set up tables the night before the Hamfest, it might be bringing a radio or an antenna or cranking up the towers for Field Day. Did you pay your dues this year? Then you're already contributing more to the club than you actually think.

So how else can you contribute? Our board meetings are always held on the first Tuesday of each month in the upstairs conference room at the Windsor Heights Hy-Vee on Universi-

ty Avenue. The meeting is open to everyone, and you can sit with us at the table and help plan events and shape the club's future. If you aren't able to meet with us at the board meeting, you can touch base with any board member before or after the general meeting or via e-mail.

While it's particularly true this time of the year with events like Field Day and the Hamfest, there's never such a thing as too many helping hands at any time of the year.

There's leadership in every single one of us, no matter how timid you might appear. It just takes stepping outside of our comfort zones every now and then and discovering that you do have something to say or that you have something more to contribute to our club and our hobby, and it can be quite rewarding when you realize it. I know it has been for me.

*Even if  
you're on  
the right  
track, you'll  
get run over  
if you just  
sit there!*  
**Will Rogers**



**Kevin Sanders**  
**KØKDS**





Have you  
checked into a  
net lately? ➔

*ARES Nets serve  
several purposes*

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

*Please check in!*

## Area Nets

### AMES

Sunday	147.240+	7:00pm	Story County ARES Net
Wednesday	147.375+ t 114.8	9:00pm	Cyclone Amateur Radio Club

### BOONE

Sunday	146.850-	9:00pm	Boone County ARES Net
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### DES MOINES

Sunday	146.940- t 114.8	8:00pm	Central Iowa ARES Net
Sunday	146.940- t 114.8	follows ARES net	Central Iowa technical Net
Sunday	146.820- t 114.8	9:00pm	ARTS Net
Thursday	146.940- t 114.8	7:00pm	Polk County ARES Net

(note) The Des Moines Sunday night nets are available thru the Shehdahl 147.075+ t 114.8 repeater

### MARSHALLTOWN

Sunday	147.135+ t 141.3	6:00pm	CIRAS Net,
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### PERRY

Monday	146.610- t 114.8	8:00pm	Dallas County ARES Net
Monday	146.610- t 114.8		follows ARES net HARC Net

### WEBSTER CITY

Monday	147.015+	7:00pm	Hamilton County Radio Club Net
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### STATEWIDE NETS

Monday—Saturday	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

## Amateur Radio Testing Sessions

### Des Moines 1:00pm

07/17/2011 1:00pm  
09/18/2011 1:00pm  
11/20/2011 1:00pm

Registration starts at 12:30 PM (no admittance after 1pm)

Location: Johnstone Supply Classroom (2nd floor)

11000 Justin Drive

Urbandale, IA 50322

Contact: Rick Allen NØCFL

(515) 795-2162

n0cfl@arrl.net

### Ames 7:00pm

Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 location TBA

1304 Howe Hall, Iowa State campus

Contact:

George Oster, NP2N

515-233-3535

### Boone 9:00am

Feb 12,

Location:

Kruck P&H Warehouse Office,  
807 6th St., Boone, Iowa  
Talk-In: 146.850

Contact:

Steve NØNEU

(515) 432-4006



Need to find a new home for your extra gear?

This Buy, Sell & Trade page may be your answer. This service is offered to DMRAA members.

#### Contact

Tom, NØVPR  
n0vpr@arrl.net



## Time to Eat?

**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.**

**Caution! Considerable amount of amateur radio topics will be discussed.**

## Iowa Ham of the Year

The Iowa Ham of the Year is intended to recognize an Iowa ham, who has demonstrated his or her tremendous dedication to Amateur Radio through his or her activities.

Requirements Nominees for the Iowa Ham of the Year must meet the following requirements to be considered for this award:

- \* A current Iowa resident
- \* A licensed Amateur Radio operator
- \* A member in good standing with the

#### ARRL

#### Timeline

\* Nominations (including the nomination form and any supporting documentation) for the Iowa Ham of the Year must be submitted on or before March 15, 2012.

\* The nominee of the winner will be notified by April 5, 2012.

\* The official presentation and announcement of the award will be at the DMRAA Hamfest in Des Moines, Iowa, on Saturday, April 21, 2012.

#### Additional Information

\* Although all accomplishments and activities will be considered, the concentration should be on those activities that took place within the past calendar year, and it should be noted when each activity occurred.

\* The judges will select an award recipient based on their involvement in ham radio, especially community service, promotion, operating, technical knowledge, volunteerism and enthusiasm.

\* All decisions of the judges are final.

\* Nominations and all accompanying material must be mailed to Iowa Ham of the Year Committee, PO Box 81 Dunkerton, IA 50626 or e-mailed to [ke0j@dunkerton.net](mailto:ke0j@dunkerton.net) on or before March 15, 2012.

\* Any questions about the award or nomination process should be directed to Joe Hoepfner, AJ0HH via e-mail to [ke0j@dunkerton.net](mailto:ke0j@dunkerton.net).

## Buy / Sell

### Tower Available

I have a 56 foot, free standing aluminum tower made by Heights Towers. Two 18 inch sections, one with top for mast: two 22 inch sections, one tapered to 18": Two 26 inch sections, one tapered to 22". Also, a rotor mount plate. Wind load rating is 18sq. ft. at 80 MPH. Tower is missing cement base legs. I've emailed Heights to see if available, or they may have to be made. Would you know of someone interested in this tower. Haven't decided price, but very reasonable.

John Wildman WB0NLC  
[johnrwildman@hotmail.com](mailto:johnrwildman@hotmail.com)

### THANK YOU

A special thanks to the family of Rod Beaudette W7FXI (SK).

They chose to donate their father's equipment to the DMRAA.

This equipment was sold at the Dayton Hamvention.

The proceeds will be used in conjunction with the club's educational outreach.



# Ham Radio

## in the 21st Century

### Board Meeting Minutes

#### Board Meeting Minutes

#### Minutes – April 5, 2011

The meeting convened at 7:05 p.m. with all elected officers and board members in attendance.

#### Guests in attendance:

Tom Reis, NØVPR and Scott Kirstein, NØOOD.

#### Review of Last Meeting Minutes:

The April Board Meeting minutes were read and approved.

#### Old Business:

**Hamfest:** Bruce Brumm, KCØZMT reported that we had not received the final bill from the State Fair Grounds. More positive remarks were reported then negative ones by attendees. Some of the positive were the use of wrist bands, the outside pre sale, openness of the area and the concessions stand. Some of the concerns heard were the vender door being partially blocked by a vendor's table during set up hours, no board showing who the winners of prizes were, and the table assignment process. After discussion on possible conflict with other events and vendors the tentative date was set for the 2012 Hamfest for the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in April. Several of the attending vendors this year stated that any other weekend they would not be able to attend.

A VIP invitations list was prepared and will be will be notified. Tom Reis was asked to talk to Power Films to see if they would like to attend.

**Field Day Venue:** Field day will be on Camp Dodge near Dinning Facility 3 (DF-3). A photo ID will be required to access the base and the gate is manned 24 hrs a day.

#### New Business:

**Packet Radio:** The clubs packet station had to be removed from its location at Lutheran Hospital due to the building being torn down. The hospital gave less than one week notice that the equipment had to be removed. Bob Jimmerson, KAØOMM, Dean Madsen, NØXR, and Kirk Nelson, WL7CLI removed all computer and radio equipment on 4/27/2011 but could not remove the coax, antennas or tower. Bob Jimmerson was going to talk with the contractor demolishing the building if they could lower the tower and possibly the coax. Dean Madsen has produced a report of possible upgrades and expenses to relocate the station. After discussion it was motioned by Dennis O'Brien, KAØDOS, The a proposal be made to Lutheran Hospital to utilize the "Penthouse" there to relocate too. And that if approved a plan be developed for

the future of the club's packet station. It was seconded by Ron Hobbs, NØXWI and passed. SK Donation: Tom Reis was given

#### Treasurer's Report:

\$10,276.25

**ARES-NØOOD:** The ARES group will be using the 94 repeater on May 21<sup>st</sup> or the MS Walk event.

#### Subcommittee Reports:

**Hamfest:** See Old Business.

**Field Day:** See Old Business.

**Repeaters:** All in working order, see Packet Radio under New business.

**Education:** Waukee Community Education going was a great success with 7 of 7 passing their test. Planning is in progress for a fall class with the Des Moines School system.

**Program:** May's program will be on Field Day by Dean Madsen, NØXR.

**Communications/PR:** No Report

**Membership:** No report

**Awards:** The Bob Evans award has been presented to Dennis O'Brien, KAØDOS.

**Christmas Party:** No report.

**Chili Feed/Auction:** No report.

**Other Business:** None

The meeting adjourned at: 9:15 p.m.

*The Des Moines*

*Radio Amateurs*

*Association*

*board meets*

*monthly in the*

*upstairs*

*conference*

*room at the*

*Windsor Heights*

*Hy-Vee on*

*University*

*Avenue in*

*Windsor Heights*



# Ham Radio

## in the 21st Century

### Board Meeting Minutes

#### Board Meeting Minutes

#### Minutes – June 7, 2011

The meeting convened at 7:04 p.m. with all elected officers and board members in attendance.

#### Guests in attendance:

None.

#### Review of Last Meeting

#### Minutes:

The May Board Meeting minutes were read and approved.

#### Treasurer's Report:

\$10,784.38

#### Unfinished Business:

**Field Day:** The committee reported that after their onsite look around that the site looked good for field day. They had developed a plan for the antennas and trailer locations. They will be checking with the Camp Dodge officials to see if we can use the kitchen area, ice machine, and refrigerator and if we can bring a gas grill on to Camp Dodge. The cost of the food is to be split between the 2 clubs. A sub lunch will be provided for those helping with the set up. Saturday night dinner will be a potluck affair. Bruce Brumm, KCØZMT, will be setting up the GOTA station and Dean Madsen, NØXR, and Kevin Sanders, KØKDS, will be bringing radios for the other stations.

**Packet Radio:** George Noble, KK7FM, reported that 3 club

members had approached him with concerns about the continued support of the clubs packet station. After a discussion of the number of current users and those that have expressed an interest in setting up a packet station it was decided by the board that the club would go forward with the proposal to Lutheran Hospital to set up a club packet radio station.

#### New Business:

**APRS digipeaters:** Kevin Sanders, KØKDS, presented his proposal of installing a APRS digipeater at the location of the 34/94 repeater. This would improve the coverage of the Waterworks Park and surrounding area. He would be using mostly his equipment and the coax and antenna that are currently installed at the Fleur and Park location. It was approved and should be completed in August.

**Meeting formats:** The format of the board meetings was discussed and decided it would stay the same.

**Committees:** The heads of the committees will stay the same.

#### Polk County ARES update:

No report

#### Subcommittee Reports:

**Hamfest:** The State Fair Ground's buildings have been locked in for the weekend of 4/21/2012. An email will be sent out notifying the vendors.

WBØW will be contacted separately.

**Field Day:** See Unfinished Business.

**Repeaters & Packet:** See Unfinished Business.

**Education:** This fall an Extra upgrade and CW class are being planned. The Extra class will have independent study with a on the air net for class room discussion.

**Program:** June's program will be on PSK presented by Larry Zimmer, KAØFTO, and Mark Campbell, WØGZR. Suggested future programs were on batteries, remote radio operations, packet radio, and net procedures. Other suggestions are welcomed.

**Communications/PR:** The static sheets is planned to be out before Field Day.

**Membership:** The ARRL Membership Contest was discussed.

**Awards:** No report.

**Christmas Party:** No report.

**Chili Feed/Auction:** No report.

**Questions, comments, additions?:** None

The meeting adjourned at: 8:51 p.m.

*The Des Moines*

*Radio Amateurs*

*Association*

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*conference*

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*Hy-Vee on*

*University*

*Avenue in*

*Windsor Heights*



# 2011 HAMFEST





# WHAT IS IT?

By KA0FTO Larry

I found this circuit that I made about 25 years ago and it took me 30 minutes to remember/find out what it was. Figure 1 is the front and Figure 2 is the circuits.

To make it interesting I will award a tremendous prize to the person that has the first and most accurate identity and function of the circuit. Oh yes the tremendous prize is a Digital Voltmeter from Harbor Freight worth at least \$\$\$\$\$. See figure 3.

Just call me at 515-865-7278 or e-mail me at [kzlzimmer@mchsi.com](mailto:kzlzimmer@mchsi.com).

I will bring and demonstrate the device at the next meeting after this article appears in the **Static Sheet** as well as award this tremendous prize.

Everyone needs at least one of these Multitesters (Digital Voltmeters)!



# Up & Coming News



## CVARC SummerFest 2011 Eastern Iowa's Premier HamFest Sunday, August 7 8 AM – 1 PM

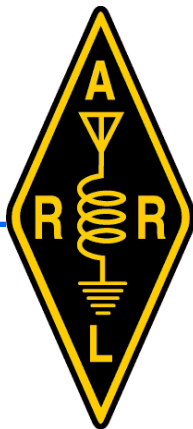
Location: Talk-In:  
Teamster's Hall 146.745 MHz -600KHz no  
PL  
5000 J Street SW Or  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 146.520 Simplex  
Admission: Tickets are \$5 at the door



## 2011 ARRL Midwest Division Convention Cedar Rapids, IA Aug 5-7, 2011

Its been quite a few years since the Cedar Valley ARC hosted a convention. This year we're going all out to make this a great event!

Support for the convention also comes from the Collins Amateur Radio Club. WØCXX will be operating as a special event station.



## Joplin Hamfest Friday & Saturday August 26-27, 2011

The Joplin Hamfest will go on as planned.

See article below

### From the ARRL

The Midwest is no stranger to bad weather. But the Spring of 2011 has been particularly devastating, with severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, flooding, and range fires throughout much of the Midwest, including all four states in our ARRL Midwest Division – Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. Many have suffered loss of lives, injury, and damage to home and businesses. None has been harder hit than Joplin, Missouri, in which 141 people died, countless others were injured, and much of the town was totally destroyed by an EF5 tornado.

The Joplin Amateur Radio Club and Radio Amateurs from the Southwest Missouri area as well as throughout the Midwest answered the call for volunteers to help with emergency communications and relief operations. Hams assisted ARES, SATERN, Red Cross, local,

state, and emergency ment tors and medical and other relief agencies, and provided countless hours and days helping this stricken community. A long and difficult road to recovery lies ahead, but the brave citizens of the Joplin area have already begun the task of restoring and rebuilding lives and looking to the future.

The Joplin Amateur Radio Club says there are at least eleven local ham radio operators who have lost equipment or antennas, and some have lost their homes. The Joplin ARC is establishing an account to accept donations for the benefit of local hams who have suffered personal losses as a result of the Joplin tornado. Anyone interested in sending contributions or gifts of equipment to the club to aid

Federal manage- teams, doc- emergency providers,

the tornado victims should mark it "Tornado Relief." Contributions will be used by the club as needed to help the storm victims and their families. Monetary donations should be sent to Joplin ARC, PO BOX 2983, Joplin MO 64803-2983. Donations of equipment may be shipped to the club in care of Jim Scott WBØIYC's office at the following address: Joplin ARC, c/o Scott Electronic Systems, 310 S. Wall Ave. Joplin, MO 64801. Anyone having questions about donations may contact the club Treasurer, Jim Johannes NØZSQ [jimjohannes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimjohannes@sbcglobal.net). The Joplin Amateur Radio Club <http://www.joplin-arc.org> is a not for profit corporation, tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(4). Contributions or gifts to the Joplin Amateur Radio Club are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.

# ORIGINS

## ORIGINS OF BOATANCHOR

### THREE VERSIONS -- Opinions From The Internet.

**Version I** -- During World War II, Military Radio Techs used the term BoatAnchor as they struggled with the huge, heavy, electronic equipment of the day -- full of transformers, tubes etc. Also the US Navy frequently marked electronic gear with an anchor. After the war -- tons of the equipment appeared on the surplus market and was dubbed BoatAnchors due to the reasons above - one or both.

**Version II** -- After WWII a national magazine editor answered a query "As what to do with an outdated heavy, large, surplus electronic instrument?" and answered "Tie a line to it and use it as a BoatAnchor"

**Version III** To all those who expressed interest in the CQ magazine reference to boatanchors, I found it after only an hour or two of skimming. And I also found that some of my recollections were a bit hazy after all those years. The original letter to the editor (not to the "Surplus Editor" as I incorrectly recalled) appeared on page 16 of the October 1956 issue of CQ and was as follows: Gentlemen: I recently acquired a "Signal Corps Wireless Set. No. 19 MK II Transceiver." Are there schematics or conversion data for this rig? Any info will be appreciated. David J. Wilke W3LSG Pottstown, Pennsylvania The editor replied: The only conversion we seem to have on the files here at CQ calls for 100 feet of 1" Manila line, one end of which is to be tied securely around the MK II Transceiver.

This then converts the unit into a fine anchor for a small boat. If any readers have better conversions we will be glad to hear about them. Ed. This letter apparently generated a lot of interest and in the February 1957 issue of CQ there was a follow-up from CQ's editor, another letter from W3LSG and several pictures. If I find the time I will scan them and post links to them here.

The expression "boatanchor" may have originated earlier than 1956, as Doug Hensley pointed out. I found no earlier references in amateur radio than these CQ's, but there may be some. However, there was no reason to call amateur gear of that era "boatanchors" since almost all of it fit that description. It wasn't till later when smaller, lighter gear became popular that there was reason to categorize some gear as boatanchors. And it is also interesting to me that a word originally used to denote something of little value, useful only to anchor a small boat, has taken on a more affectionate meaning. We love our "boatanchors". Roger K6XQ And then there is this one from a News Group. "The true determination is generally made by your spouse. If you can walk in the front door with it, without your spouse asking "and what are you planning to do with that?", it is not a boat anchor. Boat anchors are brought in during the night or on long weekends. That is CLASSIC! :-)

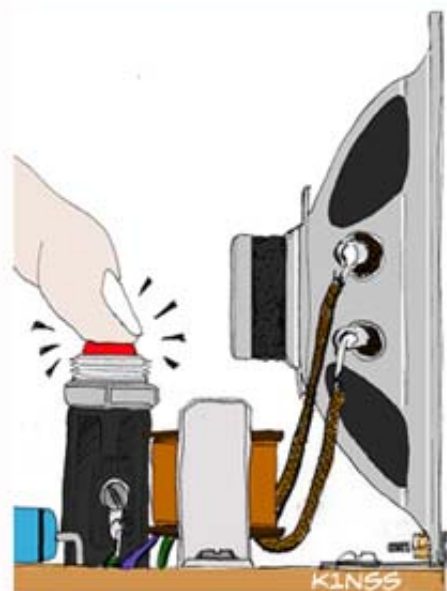
## ORIGINS OF ELMER

Hi Rod, I can add to what you already have posted: "From Norm K1AA " The term "Elmer" was invented in the early 1970s (1971, I think) by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD" W9BRD was a radio dispatcher with the Illinois State Police. One of his co-workers was Elmer "Bud" Frohardt, W9GFF, now W9DY. I've only met W9BRD once, but I've known W9DY since 1968. Bud was very well known locally for his involvement with the RAMS (Radio Amateur Megacycle Society) radio club, and he was always helping newcomers to the hobby. So when Rod Newkirk started writing about Elmer in the "How's DX" column in QST, he was writing about his friend Bud. I saw Bud quite recently and asked him to re-confirm my recollection that he was the inspiration for Elmer, and he did.

These three origins were lifted from a quick search on the internet. Our thanks to the authors

## ORIGIN OF HI HI

"hi hi" is the Morse equivalent of a laugh as in Morse it sounds like someone chuckling ("hehhehhehheh heh-heh"). That is ditditditdit dit dit --- or dot dot dot dot dot dot. You really have to listen to it sent in Morse to appreciate its laugh like sound. It is most commonly used in CW (Morse Code), but has carried over to voice as well. Many CW expressions have carried over to voice -- such as 73 (Best Regards) and 88 (love and Kisses), etc. The origin probably dates back before radio to the telegraph days. And since Hams used Morse long before voice became practical-- the sound of the Morse characters HI HI was used to resemble a laugh sound. In some sense it is equivalent of a smiley. It's onomatopoeic -- that is the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (as buzz, hiss) The definitive answer might be found in the "Dodge's The Telegraph Instructor Manual" circa 1850 to 1900. However, I have never been able to find a copy of this document. Wish I could as it would help to see the transitions from telegraph to radio usage. So that is my best guess -- based on what old time telegraphers have told me.







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Can you hear me now?

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.

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