

OFFICERS

- Bruce Brumm KCØZMT
President
- Mark Campbell WØGZR
Vice-President
- Mark Globushutz KØMJG
Secretary
- Bill Claypool NUØQ
Treasurer

BOARD

- Ron Hobbs NØXWI
- Scott Kirstein NØOOD
- Dennis O'Brien KAØDOS
- Tom Reis NØVPR
- Ben Sinclair KCØZMX
- Mike Waldron AEØMW

IN THIS ISSUE

Field Day Stats	10
ARES	3
Calendar	4
President's Soapbox	4
Testing	5
Board Minutes	7 – 8 – 9
Membership Application	13

**DMRAA to offer
Technician classes**
See page 12

STATIC SHEET

PAGE 1

SEPTEMBER 2013

2013 Field Day



The DMRAA held its annual Field Day on June 22-23 at Fort Des Moines County in South Des Moines.. The club netted 1,206 contacts this year while operating as a 3A station, down from 1,362 in 2012. Of course the nasty thunderstorm that rolled through in the morning complete with a very close lightning strike didn't help our totals.

We operated 3 HF stations, a Get On The Air (GOTA) station,. We again ran all the transmitters on generator power.

Willing club members started set up around 9:00Am Saturday morning. They set up three complete tower systems. This utilized the two State of Iowa tower trailers and one tower provided by Allan, WØKWM. He also provided rotors, cables and extensions for all three towers.

Sunday morning saw some new members who arrived to take down the towers and antennas. Quite a learning experience for all.

We did develop a problem with the Polk ARES generator.

attached to ground rods. The stations were also grounded. When the storm approached, the stations were shut down and the coax runs uncoupled. We believed this prevented any damage. Good planning makes for safe operations!

The DMRAA board would like to thank everyone that stopped out, operated, provided equipment, helped with the planning, set-up, and tear down , we couldn't have great Field Days with out the help of our members!

We have already started planning for next year's WØAK Field Day. If you would like to help plan next year's event, speak with a board member, write us a message on our website, or come to one of our board meetings,

This may be attributed to over-loading and a possible carburetor issue. The DMR AA has since funded the necessary repairs and the generator is tip-top again.

A word about the lightning strike. While we did observe a hit very close to the shelter, we had taken many precautions. All of the towers were



Chili Feed & Auction
November 26, 2013

It is not too early to be thinking about cleaning out your shack and bringing those most treasured items to the annual club auction. This is a very important task as you must make room for all the bargains that you can bring home from the auction.

Look for more details on the club's website. www.dmraa.org





Come enjoy the fellowship

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



Upcoming Meetings

September 24th 7:00 PM

Plymouth Congregational Church
42nd & Ingersoll
Waveland Room

The September program will be presented by Tom NØVPR.

Tom Reis and Bruce Brumm will demonstrate the CHIRP radio memory programming software.

Club Logo Wear Available Online

Interested in showing your DMRAA pride? Check out Gold Medal ideas:
www.goldmedalideas.com/shop/item.aspx?itemid=366
This will take you to the polo shirt page. Caps, jackets and other items are available with the DMRAA logo.



Future Meetings

Tom, NØVPR 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.



Member Benefit

QST App

Apple iOS Edition

Get the digital, interactive edition of QST on your iPhone, iPad and iPod touch.

Go Now!





Giving back through
community service

Scott Kirstien
NØOOD
Polk County ARES EC
515 490-7414 (cell)
n0ood@arrl.net

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



Polk County ARES



Again, thanks to all who have volunteered to help out with this season's events. We have received several compliments on our service to the various organizations we have been able to help so far this year.

As you can see from the attached calendar, we still have several events remaining for the season, and everyone is welcome to participate regardless of your license class, how long you've been licensed, or how much experience you have - in fact, some might say that public service events are a great way to get involved in the hobby! If you are interested, feel free to get in touch with me in person by email (NØOOD@arrl.org), or by phone

(515-490-7414)

In addition to the public

service events, we also have quarterly meetings where we talk about what went well and what can change from previous events, and discuss upcoming events and training opportunities. The meetings are open to any licensed amateur radio operator - there are no ARES membership dues. In fact, you don't even need to be a member of the ARRL to participate in ARES. Our next meeting will be October 14 at the Polk County EOC

(1907 Carpenter).

Again, thank you for your help and service.

Scott

Scott R. Kirstein, Emergency Coordinator

[Polk County ARES](#)



ARES MEETING DATES

October 14, 2013
Bring a friend



2013 ARES Events

Head of Des Moines Rowing
Regatta September - 28

Fight for Air Walk
September 28

Des Moines Marathon
October - 20

Living History Farms Cross
Country Race November - 23



2013 DMRAA Calendar

September 24, 2011

Plymouth Congregational Church
42nd & Ingersoll
Des Moines
7:00PM
Waveland Room

The September program:

CHIRP Radio memory programming
will be presented by

Tom Reis NØVPR and
Bruce Brumm KCØZMT

Calendar 2013

General Meetings and Events

24 September, 2013
22 October, 2013

26 November, 2013

Chili Feed / Auction

3 December, 2013

Christmas Party

28 January, 2014
25 February, 2014
25 March, 2014

19 April, 2014 Hamfest

22 April, 2014

Board Meeting Dates

3 September, 2013
1 October, 2013
5 November, 2013
7 January, 2014
4 February, 2014
4 March, 2014
1 April, 2014
6 May, 2014
3 June, 2014
1 July, 2014



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

"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Thus penned Sir Isaac Newton in a letter to Robert Hooke. Correspondingly, if we succeed while I am president of this club, it is because of the successes of those who have gone before me. We currently find ourselves very well-positioned as an organization. We have an active membership and a good reputation in the community. Our treasury is not depleted and our infrastructure of repeaters and antennas is in good shape. We have developed excellent educational programs for generating new and upgrading current licensees. Our Hamfest is well-attended and is a valuable fund-raiser and social event. But again, those "shoulders" belong to all of you and represent the time, effort, and resources

you have devoted to furthering the cause of Amateur Radio in central Iowa.

Please continue to volunteer and provide input. We have plenty of opportunities to help. Do consider participating on one of our committees. Some prime examples are Field Day, Hamfest, and Education. We'll be posting sign-up sheets in upcoming meetings.

Do you have a great idea for a monthly meeting program? Is there a particular area of interest you'd like to see explored? Please let me or one of the Board members know.

Most importantly, what would you like from the club? Where can we improve our services? What have been your positive experiences in other clubs that we could look at incorporating here?

I, along with the Board, look forward to advancing this club and our hobby to the next level and I consider it my privilege to serve with you.

73,
Bruce D. Brumm
KCØZMT



**Bruce Brumm
KCØZMT**

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



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-	8:00pm	Boone County ARES Net
--------	----------	--------	-----------------------

DES MOINES

Sunday	145.390- t 114.8	7:00pm	Saylorville Fellowship Net
Sunday	29.670- t 103.5	7:30pm	Iowa Ten Meter Net
Sunday	146.610- t 114.8	8:00pm	Central Iowa ARES Net
Sunday	146.940- t 114.8	follows ARES net	Central Iowa Technical Net
Sunday	146.610- t 114.8	9:00pm	ARTS Net
Thursday	146.940- t 114.8	7:00pm	Polk County ARES Net

MARSHALLTOWN

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

PERRY

Monday	145.190- t 114.8	8:00pm	Dallas County ARES Net
Monday	145.190- t 114.8	follows ARES net	HARC Net

WEBSTER CITY

Monday	147.015+	7:00pm	Hamilton County Radio Club Net
--------	----------	--------	--------------------------------

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

Amateur Radio Testing Sessions

Des Moines 1:00pm

September 15th
November 17th

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

Location: Johnstone Supply Class-
room (2nd floor)

11000 Justin Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322

Contact: Rick Allen NØCFL
(515) 795-2162
n0cfl@arrl.net

Ames

Saturday, September 21, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 PM

Saturday, November 9, 10:00 AM

1304 Howe Hall, Iowa State campus

Contact:
George Oster, NP2N
515-233-3535

Boone 9:00am

Oct 12

Time: 9:00 AM

Dec 14

Time: 9:00 AM

Location:

Location: Conference room be-
hind the cafeteria at the Boone
County Hospital, 1015 Union St,
Boone, Iowa

Contact:

Steve NØNEU
(515) 432-4006

Time 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
info@DMRAA.com



Time to
Eat?



JOTA – Jamboree On The Air is held the 3rd weekend in October, Oct. 19-20. Information to be coming out soon. Location will be Frankel Ridge Tew Cabin at Camp Mitigwa this year.
www.scouting.org/jota.aspx

Buy / Sell

Your ham gear advertised here.
Contact info@dmraa.com



Hungry and looking to meet local hams? On Fridays 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 (around 20) 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.





May Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
present:

Bruce Brumm
George Noble
Craig Rose
Dennis Obrien

Dean Madsen
Tom Reis
Bill Claypool
Scott Kirstein

Absent:
Mark Globezchutz
Ben Sinclair
Kevin Sanders

1. Review of minutes from April 2013 board meeting - motion by Craig second by Scott
2. Treasurer's report 19,617.89 - \$5900 from LeRoy Coder estate
3. Unfinished business
 - a. Hamfest debrief. Prizes cost \$513.48. Scheduling prizes seemed to work. Table sales were flat from last year. 385 paid attendance. Fair \$900 deposit plus electrical and cleaning. Final bills TBD. (\$3036 deposit projected profit \$1200 plus donation from Carmine Smith.)
Bruce moved to reserve the same weekend (4/19 - Easter weekend) at the fairgrounds for next year. second by Scott passed
4. New
 - a. Field Day: Bruce will ask Allen Johnson for the use of the third tower trailer and rotators. Planning on a 3A station for this year. Food will be coordinated at the May meeting (as last year).
5. Polk County ARES update Next event May 11, then May 18
6. Subcommittee reports
 - a. Hamfest DONE
 - b. Field Day DONE
 - c. Repeaters & Packet: Dean has been monitoring Truro. Not much activity - needs antenna work. Antenna at Lutheran: Antenna would need to be remounted. Internet connection not a possibility at Lutheran. Would need to be hosted offsite. \$30 per year IRLP dues plus hosting costs. \$200 approx. start up cost. Motion by George: Dean, Tom, and Scott to look at repeaters in the metro report back in August. Second by Bruce: Thanks to Dean for his work so far. Passed
 - d. Education Classes are done for the year. NW Community center is good to work with. Everyone who has tested passed. Techs and Generals. CW class is still in planning stage. Tech class in the Fall.
 - e. Programming: Dean May. George is still working on upcoming months.
 - f. Communications & Public Relations NO REPORT
 - g. Membership NO REPORT
 - h. Awards Bob Evans awarded to Kevin Sanders and Dan Miller
 - i. Chili Feed & Auction NO REPORT
 - j. Christmas Party NO REPORT
7. Questions, comments, additions?
8. Adjournment 8:30PM

*The Des Moines
Radio Amateurs
Association
board meets
monthly in the
upstairs
conference
room at the
East Euclid
Hy-Vee
2540 E Euclid
Ave
Des Moines*

June Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 2-June, 2013

In Attendance:

Craig Rose – KC0YHU - Guest
Bruce Bromm – KC0ZMT - President
Dean Madson – N0XR – Guest
Ron Hobbs – N0XWI - Board
Bill Claypool – NU0Q – Treasurer

Mark Globuschutz – K0MJG – Sect.
George Nobel – KK7FM – Guest
Tom Reis – N0VPR – Board
Mark Campbell – W0GZR – VP
Dennis O'Brien – KA0DOS - Board

Absent:

Ben Sinclair – KC0ZMX – Board

Scott Kirstein – N0OOD - Board

Review of minutes from 7-May 2013 board meeting: Spelling mistakes noted (Mark Globuschutz; line 2, Koder; line 6c Truro)

Motion – Tom R; Seconded – Dennis O'B; Motion carried.

2. Treasurer's report: \$ 18,893.12

3. Unfinished business

- a. Hamfest – any final bills from Iowa State Fair TBD and final Treasurer's report. One bill received for \$ 288.00 for a total expense of \$ 1,238.00. Prizes totaled \$ 513.38. Ham Fest Net = 1,284.62.
- b. IRLP was moved to committee Dean M, Tom R and Scott K. Committee report expected by Sept. 2013 meeting. Changed from August.

4. New

- a. Field Day: Bruce has asked Allen Johnson for the use of the rotators and control cables for the tower antennas.
- b. Planning on a 3A station for this year. Meet with ARTS club on 18-June at site to finalize the event.
- c. Mark, Dennis and Lowell will pull the trailers to the site. Towers need to be on site by 9:00 AM.
- d. Club will provide pop and water to the potluck. People are asked to bring one dish, hot or cold.
- e. Tom R. has signs but he will need to have someone take them and set them up because he will be involved in another activity during the morning and will be unable to set-up the signs.

5. Polk County ARES update; Scott K. not present

6. Subcommittee reports

- a. Hamfest; 2014; building is reserved, testing may be moved to a building with heat. Planned date is April 19, 2014
- b. Field Day; see above notes
- c. Repeaters & Packet; band conditions are down but everything seems to be working OK. We need to restore the antenna system on the hospital. Motion made by Tom R. to have Dean secure a quote to restore the antenna. Ron H. seconded, Motion carried.
- d. Education; Fall Technician class will be in Des Moines, Spring Technician class will be in Waukeet.
- e. Programming: June – Section Manager

July – Ham Car Show

Coordinate ideas or suggestions for future programs with Tom. Tom has consented to be the acting Programming lead but requests that everyone help with ideas and making the programs happen.

f. Communications & Public Relations; no report

g. Membership: There was an extended open discussion on this topic and was generally felt by those in attendance that each individual member of the club

AMATEUR RADIO

July Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 2-July, 2013

In Attendance:

Bruce Brumm – KC0ZMT- Pres.
Tom Reis – N0VPR - Board
Scott Kirstein – N0OOD - Board
Bill Claypool – NU0Q – Treas.
Dean Madsen – N0XR – Guest
Michael Waldron – AE0MW – Board

Ben Sinclair – KC0ZMX – Board
Dennis O'Brien – KA0DOS – Board
Mark Campbell – W0GZR – VP
Ron Hobbs – N0XWI – Board
Mark Globuschutz – K0MJG - Sect.

Review of minutes from 4-June 2013 board meeting; Corrected date and spelling of Brumm and Noble. Motion to approve, Ron H.; Seconded, Tom R. Motion carried

Treasurer's report: \$ 18,893.12

The question was asked if we should look at placing some of our funds in a interest/growth opportunity to isolate and protect some of the funds and have it grow moderately with no risk.

The possible options will be reviewed during the September Board meeting.

Unfinished business

Field Day – wrap-up and equipment expense discussion; 2014 plans.

Repair of the generator will result in an expense in the near future because it stopped running during field day for unknown reasons.

A rotor cable was damaged during field day and will be replaced.

Repair parts for the TenTec power supply need to be purchased by Dean.

Clamps and rope for antennas and some antenna parts need to be purchased by Dean.

A package of 10 Head phones will be purchased for next year for use by everyone.

Motion to authorize Dean to acquire parts up to \$ 350.00, Motion by Tom R, Seconded by Ron H, Motion carried.

The park that was used for Field Day this year seems to be a good site for the 2014 Field Day. Scott K. will try to reserve the site for 2014. (4th full weekend in June. (June 28,29.))

New

Next club meeting is a "Drive in Show and Tell" on mobile stations.

Could have some ice cream type snacks. Motion by Tom R, Seconded by Scott K, Motion carried

Polk County ARES update

5 individuals went to the State Wide ARES meeting and seen a presentation on fldigi.

There are 2 events in June in addition to Field Day

Next event is the regatta at Camp Sunny Side

Next will be the State Fair Parade, KD0MLE will be in charge

July 22 is the next ARES meeting and the topic will be fldigi.

Subcommittee reports

Hamfest – Scott K has talked to the State Fair contact individual regarding the location for the testing. Last year the testing room was very cold and would like to arrange for a warmer room next year.

Field Day – See above

Repeaters & Packet – All is well

Education – Tech class will be in Des Moines school system this Fall.

Consideration is being given to conduct an informal morse code class this fall also.

Programming – Mobile Station Show and Tell is planned for July.

Communications & Public Relations

It was agreed that the Static Sheet should go out prior to events. Should establish a submission date and publication date so that it can be better organized. Submissions for the Static Sheet should be sent to Ben - ben@bensinclair.com

Membership- none

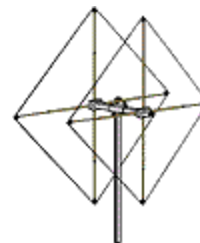
Awards - none

Chili Feed & Auction - none

Christmas Party - none

Questions, comments, additions?

Motion to adjourn Scott K , Seconded, Ron H, motion carried



ARTS & DMRAA Field Day 2013 Statistics

QSO Breakdown by Band and Mode

W0AK				
Band	CW	SSB	RTTY	Total
3.5	88	14	0	102
7	342	96	5	443
14	476	43	0	519
21	55	68	0	123
28	4	11	0	15
50	0	4	0	4
Total	965	236	5	1206

W0SCI (GOTA)	
Band	SSB
14	2
21	3
Total	5

Totals			
Call	CW	SSB	Total
W0SCI	0	5	5
W0AK	965	236	1206
Total	965	241	1211

Comparison by Year					
Year/Category	PSK31	RTTY	CW	SSB	Total
2002 (3A)					920
2003 (3A)					760
2004 (4A)					1761
2005 (4A)					650
2006 (4A)					1156
2007 (4A)					1272
2008 (4A)	0	0	658	51	709
2009 (2A)	1	0	671	243	915
2010 (2A)	0	0	671	365	1036
2011 (2A)	0	0	1163	285	1448
2012 (2A)	0	0	896	466	1362
2013 (3A)	0	5	965	241	1206
2012 - 2013 % Change	N/C	+∞	+8%	-48%	-6%

W0AK QSO Breakdown by Date, Hour and Band

Date	Hour	Total	3_5	7	14	21	28	50	Running Total
6/22/2013	18	42	0	0	34	8	0	0	42
6/22/2013	19	96	0	2	79	13	0	2	138
6/22/2013	20	69	0	5	60	4	0	0	207
6/22/2013	21	67	0	10	54	3	0	0	274
6/22/2013	22	83	0	19	55	9	0	0	357
6/22/2013	23	72	0	2	64	0	6	0	429
6/23/2013	0	61	0	7	11	40	1	2	490
6/23/2013	1	63	0	2	55	6	0	0	553
6/23/2013	2	70	13	4	52	1	0	0	623
6/23/2013	3	64	5	39	20	0	0	0	687
6/23/2013	4	96	4	86	6	0	0	0	783
6/23/2013	5	65	1	59	5	0	0	0	848
6/23/2013	6	26	10	12	4	0	0	0	874
6/23/2013	7	32	0	32	0	0	0	0	906
6/23/2013	8	44	0	37	7	0	0	0	950
6/23/2013	9	32	2	30	0	0	0	0	982
6/23/2013	10	82	50	32	0	0	0	0	1064
6/23/2013	11	37	17	16	4	0	0	0	1101
6/23/2013	12	44	0	38	6	0	0	0	1145
6/23/2013	13								1145
6/23/2013	14	Thunderstorm shutdown							1145
6/23/2013	15								1145
6/23/2013	16	36	0	6	1	21	8	0	1181
6/23/2013	17	25	0	5	2	18	0	0	1206
Total		1206	102	443	519	123	15	4	

Other Iowa stations worked: KC0FU, N0SFF, KC0JUO, AK0M, KD0Q, WA0DX, N0QIX, KD0NEB, WA0GUD, WF0RT, & WA9Z

OLD BULB REPLACEMENT?

by Larry KA0FTO

The meter lamp in my Rotor control for by Ham-IV ROTOR, after many years of use, burned out! I could read 1820 on the lamp and measuring with a digital AC Voltmeter showed 26 Volts AC at the socket. I later found out the 1820 lamp/bulb is rated at 28V .1A so new I was probably in trouble for finding it locally.

After the fix I finally thought to pull up GRAINGER's webpage and of course they listed it. Oh well a true Electronics nerd does not do it the easy way but the fun way.

So trying two different Electronic supply places I decided on a package of two 12 volt **Grain of Wheat** bulbs. They have wires in place of a socket and with that I wired the two in series and taped the connection then mounted them on the existing bayonet type socket. I of course used a lot of Vinyl tape for insulation. The two outer wires of my bundle is what was soldered to the existing socket. It worked! I wonder how long this 24 volt combination will last with 26 volts applied?

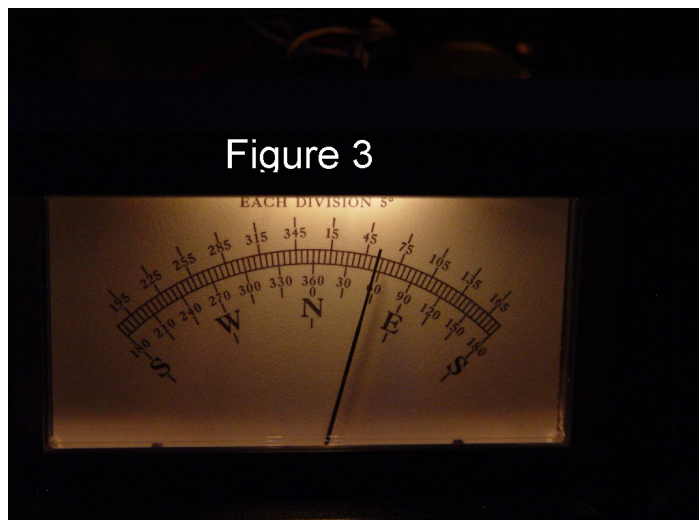
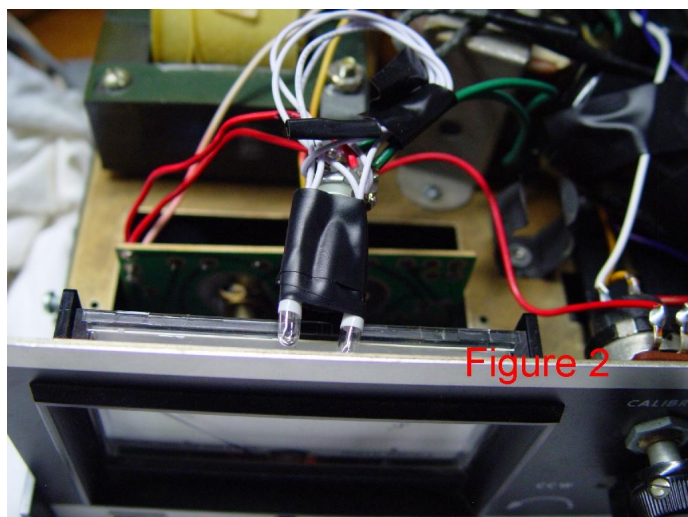
Oh yes the price of the pair of **Grain Of Wheat** bulbs matched within pennies of the listed price in the GRAINGER's web page. Oh well my labor rate and travel time made it a little bit more expensive but oh well!

See the attached figures:

FIGURE 1 shows the package that the lamps came in, One of the new lamps, the old bulb, and a similar socket for the original bulb, plus a penny for size.

FIGURE 2 shows the lamps mounted on the side of the original socket with vinyl type

FIGURE 3 shows the final with the lamps in place and lighting up the indicator dial.



Be Prepared (Generators)

Today I had a little time on my hands so I decided to take the yearly look at my generators. I have three in various sizes for different needs, a 6,000 watt for household needs, a 2,500 watt for general portable use, such as running power tools or a neighbor's sump pump. I also have a small 1,000 watt inverter type for odd things that lend themselves to low load, quiet use. Every year I take a couple of hours and check them. For the 6,000 I have a small funnel that holds a pint of gas. I attach this to the fuel line and can run the generator for a few minutes without filling the gas tank. I use Mobil 1 synthetic oil as it does not need to be changed with short time usage. After checking the oil, it started on the first pull. I use the Fluke to check the voltage and a 1500 watt heater to give it a load. All tests looked good. After it ran out of gas, I covered it and put it back in the shed. For the 2,500 and the 1,000 watt units I add a small amount of gas directly to the tanks. Check the oil and run the



tests and run them dry, all looked good again. A few of suggestions; Make a label or sticker with the date of the last oil change (works better than my memory) Do not store fuel in the generator. Keep spare fuel in air tight containers Treat your fuel to help it keep longer Cover your generator with a heavy plastic trash bag to keep them dust free

I have asked a couple of repair shops and they recommend that you use both Sta-bil and SeaFoam fuel stabilizers to extend the storage life of the fuel. Also avoid using gasoline with ethanol. Sta-bil requires 1 ounce for 2.5 gallons and SeaFoam uses 2 ounces per gallon. Of course if you can, rotate the fuel keep it fresh, That said, it won't keep forever. I use my lawn mower to use up the older fuel. I always keep a can of starting fluid handy incase the motors are reluctant to start when it is very cold. By taking the time on a nice day to check things, you may just save the frustration of repairs when time or decent weather is in short supply.

You don't need to be a Boy Scout to practice the Scout motto.

73
Tom, NØVPR

DMRAA to offer Technician Classes



Classes begin on Sept. 19th (Thursday). There will be 8 Thursday night classes with the 9th session for testing. Des Moines Community Education charges \$25.00 per student plus \$25.00 for the ARRL instruction manual.

Contact Ron Hobbs NØXWI or info@dmraa.com for more details.

Contesting

Are you bored or looking for something different to do? Try contesting. There are contests held year-round, for every level of skill and interest.

Click on the links below for more information.

[ARRL Contests](#)

www.contesting.com

[CQ](#)



What does a Volunteer Examiner (VE) do?

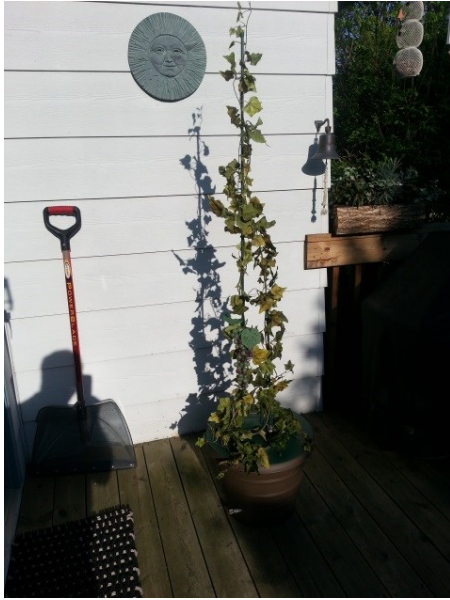


Volunteer Examiners (VEs) are licensed radio amateurs holding a General Class license or higher who offer their time to administer the FCC licensing tests. Learn how you can **become a VE** associated with the ARRL Volunteer Coordinator office (VEC) by reviewing our **Volunteer Examiner Manual**.

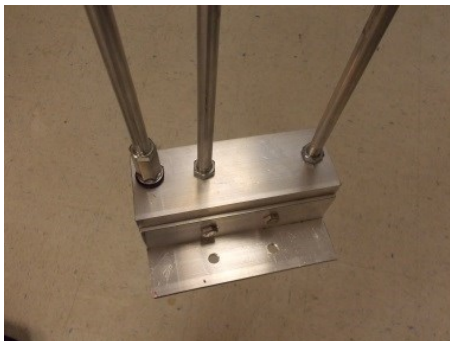
Relying on the training and experience of ARRL VEs who conduct FCC license exams, ARRL also authorizes our VEs to conduct exam sessions for ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course. An additional registration with ARRL's Continuing Education Program is required. Find more information at Em-Comm Field Exam Resources.

Stealth Antenna

Hiding a J-Pole

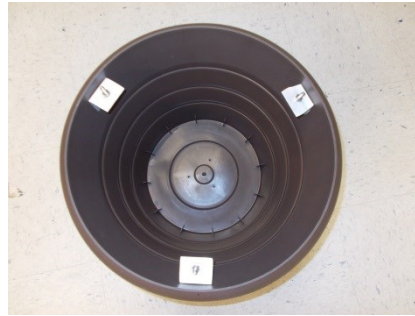


After hearing a fellow ham discuss possible solutions to his signal problems at his apartment complex, I remembered an article that that I had read where the author had taken an Arrow J-Pole affixed it in a flower pot and covered it with artificial vegetation. I wondered if this might work. I have made a couple of dozen J-Poles for others and so I was eager to try this. I couldn't remember how the antenna was affixed to the flower pot so I tried a couple of different ways before I came up with the finished product.

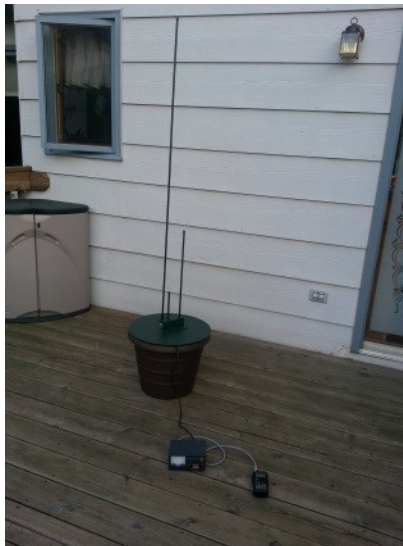


The Arrow J-Pole is a half wave design and thus will perform well without a ground plane. That said I have also read that

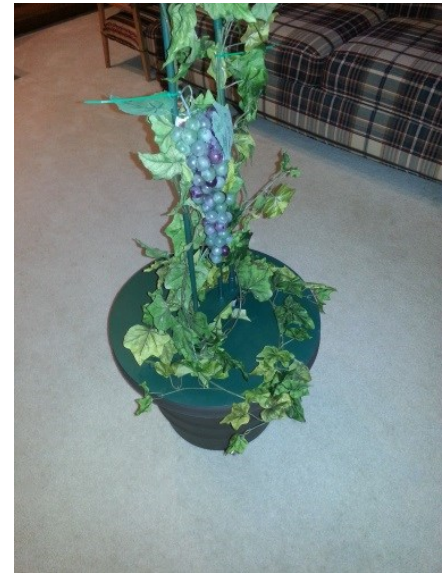
VHF / UHF half waves perform even better with a ground plane. I had a 16" 12 gauge disk that could set nicely on the rim of the pot.



I made three brackets to attach the disk and mounted it on the pot. I then added an aluminum angle to the antenna base and fastened it to the disks.



The SWR was better than I have seen from the Arrow without the disk. I painted the disk and the entire antenna with primer and flat green paint. My wife suggested that we visit Hobby Lobby for the plastic ivy. Trust me; she did some shopping of her own as well. While there she convinced me that it needed a set of grapes. In the pictures you can see the results. I have had the pot in my lab at the office and several non-hams couldn't tell it was an antenna.



I tested this on my deck here in Johnston and was very impressed with the results. I was able to work the 146.94 on the south side as well as the 145.19 in Perry on 5 watts, something I certainly couldn't do that with the rubber duck. I spent close to \$70 making it. Surprisingly the pot and pseudo vegetation cost over \$40. The J-Pole can be made for a little over \$20. After I had built this I kept wondering what I could change to make it simpler. You can see that I eliminated the aluminum angle and mounted the elements directly. The resulting SWR was as low as the original. We'll see where I go with this one, maybe a corn stalk!



73, Tom NØVPR
n0vpr@arrl.net



Des Moines Radio Amateurs Assn.
P.O. Box 88
Des Moines, IA 50301
DMRAA.org or DMRAA.com

E-mail: info@dmraa.com

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.

The DMRAA is affiliated with the ARRL, The national association for Amateur Radio.



DMRAA Membership Application

Des Moines Radio Amateurs Association

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
 \$60 3 Years

Mail Application and payment to
DMRAA
P.O. Box 88
Des Moines, IA 50301

