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- Kevin Sanders KØKDS
- Mike Waldron AEØMW

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APRIL 2015

2015 DMRAA Hamfest

Spring has sprung the grass is ris, I wonder where the birdies is? That's easy, they are all at the **2015 DMRAA Hamfest**. April 18th, 8:00 till 1:00 at the Elwell Family Center on the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Come join your ham friends in Des Moines for a great time and too many bargains. Admission is



still \$6. Door prizes a-plenty, ARRL VEC testing, and lots of tables still available. SO what's missing? You are! Get a carload and come and enjoy forums, fun ,and of course the frivolity. Check page 13 for the flyer and DMRAA.com for more. information.



Field Day is sooner than you think!

Mark your calendars this years **Field Day is June 27th at Fort Des Moines County Park**. Set up begins at 9:00am with the event starting at 1:00pm.



Field Day is an annual event sponsored by the ARRL to encourage Hams to get out from the shack and operate from remote facilities similar to what might be encountered in an emergency. While it is not necessarily a contest, records are maintained and points are awarded for a variety of operating classes. The event this year will be a class 4 alpha station. More information on Field Day can be found at arrrl.org/field-day. Setup begins at 9:00 am Saturday June 27th. The event

starts at 1:00 pm and ends Sunday, 24 hours later. Oh yes, there will be food.



**Hamfest
Flyer**
page 9



Come enjoy the fellowship

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



Upcoming Meetings

Credit Card Security Upgrades

April 28th

7:00 PM

**Plymouth Congregational Church
42nd & Ingersoll
Waveland Room, 2nd floor**

April Meeting

April, 24th 2015 7:00 PM

**Plymouth Congregational Church
42nd & Ingersoll**

The news has been full of stories of credit card data that has been compromised by way of merchant transactions. We in the United States are about the only country left in the world using magnetic strip technology. The rest of the world has converted to the Chip Card or EMV. EMV is short for Europay, MasterCard, Visa and has become the standard for electronic money changing not only with merchants but at ATMs as well. as to what's coming later this year. Stephen Sladek is in the technology section of Bankers Trust and will present a program which should clarify the EMV for us.

May Meeting

May, 26th 2015 7:00 PM

**Plymouth Congregational Church
42nd & Ingersoll**

**DMRAA Officer & Board elections
Show and Tell (Dayton/Hamfest),**

Future Meetings

Bruce, KCØZMT 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.



March Meeting

Jack KØJQA demonstrates proper soldering techniques for coax connectors at the March DMRAA meeting. Jack also explained the differences between many of the popular connectors used by hams.





Giving back through community service

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



Polk County ARES



Most of you know my philosophy regarding the public service events we do being the strongest opportunity for us to practice our skills together, see where we each need to grow in our individual capabilities, and grow as a communications unit. There are events that are held each year in conjunction with the Amateur Radio Relay League that are designed to develop these skills as well. They are held in the fall and they are called Simulated Emergency Tests (SETs).

Historically, Polk County ARES has not participated in the SET process – for one reason or another. Most years by the time the SET (which operates kind of like Field Day for those of keeping score at home) rolls around most of you have put in several hours – if not days – in service to ARES, and I am trying to be respectful of your time. Another reason, is that the SET takes some planning, and coordination effort and – frankly – my fall is pretty

busy at work.

Having said all of this, the thought occurred to me during the Fight for Air Climb, One of the reasons we as amateurs “get” as much of the radio spectrum as we do is set forth in Part 97, Subpart A – General Provisions:
§97.1 Basis and Purpose (a): Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

The work we do with organizations like the American Lung Association and Living History Farms supports this provision whole-heartedly. We are volunteering to help to support their efforts – by providing a skilled set of volunteers to help ensure the safety of their participants. We are very much “partnering” with them and helping out as much as the rest of their volunteer cadre, just by doing what we do. It really is an ideal volunteer gig. Most of us were

likely to talk to someone on the radio the day of the “Fight for Air Climb” anyway, why not help out an organization that exists to provide needed support to their clientele.

By serving the public in this regard, we are not only helping the organizations we are partnering with, ourselves as a communications group, and fulfilling a foundational purpose of amateur radio, some of us have gone a bit farther – taken a step up, if you will, and have become participants. I am of course speaking of our own DMRAA board member (and Section Public Information Officer), Kevin Sanders, KØKDS who not only raised the funds required to participate in the event and climbed the all of the stairs in all four buildings, Kevin also served ARES that day as a shadow for one of the American Lung Association’s staff.

73,
Scott, NØOOD

Polk County ARES Meetings

Polk County EOC at
1907 Carpenter Avenue
Des Moines, IA



ARES MEETING DATES 2015

Monday, April 13 7:00pm
Monday, July 20 7:00pm
Monday, October 12 7:00pm

2015 ARES Events

Market to Market, May 9th, 2015
Dam to Dam, May 30th, 2015
Field Day, June 27th-28th, 2015
Full Scale Airport Exercise, August 8th, 2015
Iowa State Fair Parade, August 12th, 2015
Head of the Des Moines Rowing Regatta, September 26th, 2015
Des Moines Marathon, October 18th, 2015
Living History Farms Fun Race, November 21, 2015

ARES Reflective Vests

Polk County ARES now has several Class 3 Level 2 Safety Vests available for purchase. These are better quality surveyor type vests with sleeves and several pockets in sizes m thru 3XL. They have the words “RADIO COMMUNICATIONS” on the back.

Cost is \$20.

Contact Tom,
NØVPR
n0vpr@arrl.net



2015 DMRAA Calendar



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

Calendar 2015-16

General Meetings and Events

18 April 2015 HAMFEST

28 April, 2015

26 May, 2015

23 June, 2015

27 June 2015 Field Day

28 July, 2015

25 August, 2015

22 September, 2015

27 October, 2015

24 November, 2015 Chili

Feed / Auction

1 December, 2015 DMRAA

Christmas Party

Board Meeting Dates

7 April, 2015

5 May, 2015

2 June, 2015

7 July, 2015

4 August, 2015

1 September, 2015

6 October, 2015

3 November, 2015

5 January, 2016

2 February, 2016

1 March, 2016

5 April, 2016

3 May, 2016



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.

Dues are calendar year



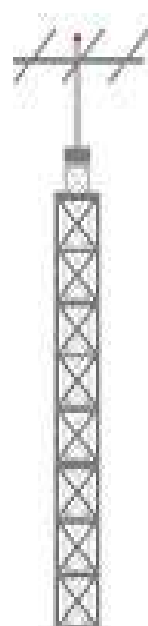
"When you need amateur radio, you really need them."

W. Craig Fugate

Administrator
Department of
Homeland
Security, FEMA



**Bruce Brumm
KCØZMT**



President's Soapbox

April 18th is an auspicious day. Not only is it the date of the DMRAA Hamfest, but it is also World Amateur Radio Day. According to the ARRL, the IARU was founded in Paris on 18-April, 1925 with the co-founder of the ARRL, Percy Maxim, as first president.

The primary purpose of World Amateur Radio day is "to highlight Amateur Radio and its benefits to countries and communities." What better way to celebrate than by attending the DMRAA Hamfest! But enough of the shameless advertising. We are all representatives of the hobby, and our actions are observed by many in the community. Let's all make sure we highlight the hobby well wherever and whenever we transmit.

2015 finds us in a healthy position in terms of club members and resources. There are a number of projects in the works, and a

member satisfaction survey is forthcoming. As blessed as we have been, we still need your assistance. Assistance comes in many forms.

One of the seemingly very least forms is quite important -- paying your dues. Many of you have already done this and I see the t-shirts being worn which evidence this. Thanks again for being faithful partners in our club! A number of us assist by volunteering on the board. Others help with various events such as Field Day, Christmas Party, Chili Feed & Auction, and also the Hamfest. Club meetings, programs, and the Static Sheet don't happen by accident either.

Please consider helping out in any way possible. Please let me or any board member know what area of interest you may have. We're glad to have you help us, and will be sure to get you involved!

73,
Bruce, KCØZMT



Have you
checked into a
net lately? →

*ARES Nets serve
several purposes*

- *Operator
training*
- *Training of
Net control
operators*

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
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DES MOINES

Sunday	145.390- t 114.8	7:00 pm	Saylorville Fellowship Net
Sunday	29.670- t 103.5	7:30 pm	Iowa Ten Meter Net
Sunday	146.610- t 114.8	8:00 pm	Central Iowa ARES Net
Sunday	146.940- t 114.8	follows ARES net	Central Iowa Technical Net
Monday	146.940- t 114.8	7:30 pm	DMRAA information Net
Wednesday	53.250-	8:30 pm	Iowa 6 Meter Net 1.7mhz-
Thursday	146.940- t 114.8	7:00 pm	Polk County ARES Net
Friday	145.310- t 114.8	7:00 pm	Evening Newsline & Fusion Net

INDIANOLA

Saturday	146.640- t 114.8	7:30am	Warren County ARES Net
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PERRY

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

CRESTON

Sunday	443.400+ t 151.4	8:30pm	SW Iowa Amateur Radio Assn.
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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



Amateur Radio Testing Sessions



Des Moines 1:00pm

Saturday, April 18th
Des Moines Hamfest , 9:30 am
Sunday, May 17, 2015
Sunday, July 19, 2015
Sunday, September 20, 2015
Sunday, November 15, 2015
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

April 18, 2015 10:00 AM

Location: 1246 Howe Hall, Iowa
State campus

Contact: George Oster, NP2N
515-233-3535

Boone 9:00am

April 11, 2015
June 13, 2015
August 8, 2015
October 10, 2015
December 12, 2015

Location: Conference room
behind the cafeteria at the Boone
County Hospital, 1015 Union St,
Boone, Iowa

Contact: Steve NØNEU
(515) 432-4006

Marshalltown 9:00am

May 2, 2015
August 1, 2015
December 5, 2015

Check-In: 9:30 AM
Exam Starts: 10:00AM
Location: RACOM Corporation
201 West State Street
Marshalltown, IA

Contact:
Brian Krumm, NØMXK
n0mxk@arrl.net
641-752-9658

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

Looking for something?
We'd be happy to help



Time to
Eat?

Buy / Sell, Ham Help



DMRAA T-Shirts For sale At the DMRAA Hamfest

The DMRAA has club T-Shirts for sale in most sizes.

\$8 size S-XL

\$10 for 2XL—4XL

* subject to sizes on hand

Contact Tom, NØVPR

n0vpr@arrl.net

(515) 314-5666



Are you checking the website?

Keep up to date with local amateur radio news. The club website is a great resource.

[Go to dmraa.org](http://dmraa.org)



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 amounts of amateur radio topics will be discussed.





There are several Polk
County ARES events

upcoming.

Contact

Scott, NØOOD

n0ood@arrl.net

to volunteer

SW Iowa repeaters now linked to Grimes

Recently the South West Iowa Amateur Radio Association decided to link their repeaters to the 443.400+ t151.4 repeater in Grimes. This allows access to a number of repeaters in Southwest Iowa including Afton, Menlo, Creston, Prescott, Greenfield, Bedford, Osceola and Lenox. There is a net every Sunday evening at 8:30 pm. and all are welcomed to check in. This is a great network of repeaters and a real plus for the National Weather Service and their mission during severe weather. The hope is that this linking will increase the number of severe weather reports from Southwest Iowa.

Location	Freq.	PL
Grimes	443.400+	151.4
Afton	442.400+	151.4
Menlo	146.865-	114.8
Creston	146.790-	136.5
Prescott	145.510-	127.3
Greenfield	444.700+	173.8
Bedford	443.700+	136.5
Osceola	147.21+	136.5
Lenox	146.88-	136.5
Clarinda	146.97-	136.5



Ham Radio Basics - Technician Level License

Join the world of amateur radio and study with licensed Ham Radio instructors. You as an operator will learn the use of amateur radio equipment for enjoyment, experimentation and public service.

Members of the Des Moines Radio Amateurs Association (DMRAA) will guide you through the requirements for obtaining the entry level Technician Class License. Official "Level 1 - Ham Radio License Manual" is required. Copies will be available at the first class for \$ 25.00. Ages 11+

Des Moines Public School Community Education.

Classes will be held beginning March 23, 2015

More detail will be available at DMRAA.com



DMRAA Changes NET

After a decades-long absence the DMRAA has resumed a net. It's a combination of club announcements and ragchew chat. While it is a DMRAA net, it is open to everyone, member or not. We use the WØAK club repeater, 146.940. Join us Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We open with check-ins, then move to club announcements, then the ragchew begins. You may share your amateur radio activities, ask for assistance on a project, or list buy and sell items. Please join us on the net.

Extras



The DMRAA board authorized funds to upgrade the 146.985 – MHz tone 114.8 repeater at Veteran's Medical Center to include a UHF remote base radio. This upgrade has been installed and allows the repeater to be linked to local UHF repeaters. DMRAA-2 will be linked when necessary for emergencies or for various events as needed.

The board also authorized the funds to purchase a Motorola MSF 5000 repeater and add a VHF remote base. This repeater, KØDSM 444.100 + MHz tone 151.4 is now located at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines. This replaces the Motorola MTR 2000 repeater which will be installed with the new Yaesu Fusion VHF repeater at Broadlawns Medical Center later this year.



Go-box thoughts

Have you checked your go-box lately?

- Are the batteries charged?
- Checked for any corrosion?
- Do you have fresh batteries in your flashlight?
- Are radio memories programmed with the latest frequencies?
- Are all the cables and coax ready? No frayed wires.

I have added a couple of items to my kit recently. A 12v USB car charger and a cute little 12" multi cable. It is USB and provides a mini USB, micro USB, I-phone 4s end a new I-phone 5s end. I bought it on eBay for \$1.00! You may be supporting an event or location and someone needs to charge a phone. There you are, Mister "Be Prepared"

By the way, the latest local frequencies can be found on the club's website at DMRAA.com

NØVPR



Kevin Sanders, KØKDS

after competing in the American Lung Association's Fight for Air Climb in Des Moines on March 22. Sanders, who is a DMRAA Board Member, as well as the Iowa Section PIO, finished 12th in his division and 103rd overall from a field of over 1,100.



Static Sheet Deadlines

Item submission deadline	Publish Date (Email sent)	Web edition posted
February 1 st	February 15 th	February 20 th
April 1 st	April 15 th	April 20 th
June 1 st	June 15 th	June 20 th
August 1 st	August 15 th	August 20 th
October 1 st	October 15 th	October 20 th
December 1 st	December 15 th	December 20 th



HAMFEST

2015

IOWA STATE FAIRGROUNDS - Elwell Family Center Building

Don't Miss It!

CQ CQ CQ

ADMISSION:

Adults: \$6.00
12 & Under: FREE

- Talk-in: 146.940 tone 114.8
- Free Parking
- Handicap Accessible
- Snacks and Drinks
- Convenient Restrooms



The Des Moines Radio Amateurs Association is pleased to sponsor our annual Hamfest.

Browse the wares of the featured vendors. Sell your unneeded gear for extra cash! Find that perfect addition for your rig.



Saturday,
April 18th, 2015
8:00 am-1:00 pm

ARRL DXCC Card Checking

For more details visit:
www.arrl.org/dxcc-forms

VE TESTING

Held in the Elwell Family Center Bldg (same as hamfest)

Technician, General & Extra exams are offered

Testing Fee: \$15.00

Registration: 9:00 am

Testing: 9:30 am-12:00 pm

* No one will be admitted for testing after 9:30 am

FLEA MARKET

Tables: \$20.00 (1st table)
\$10.00 (ea. additional)

Contact Bruce Brumm, KCOZMT
for advanced reservations at
info@dmraa.com

* No Tailgating Allowed!



Featured Vendors

D & L Antennas
RF Adapter Guy

A great location that's easy to get to



MORE INFO:

www.dmraa.com/hamfest
www.iowastatefair.org/for-visitors/maps-directions



DOOR PRIZES

MFJ-225

1.8-170MHz Antenna Analyzer

Jetstream JT-270M

2m/70cm Dual Band Mobile

Door prize ticket included with your paid admission

CONTACT US:

DMRAA

P.O. Box 88 • Des Moines, IA 50301

E-mail: info@dmraa.com

Web: www.dmraa.com

GROUNDROD CHECK!

by
KA0FTO Larry

OK winter is over, I think, it is time to check things that were too cold to check earlier. I thought I had more noise in my receivers than should be there. I also seem to pick up some AM stations around the center of 75 meters. I still get many harmonics whenever the \$\$\$@&* & PLASMA TV is on. That is another story. It is 49F today so I decided I better tackle this job.

The following 9 figures show my steps. The existing ground connection is at least 5 years old but still looked good from what I could see.

Fig 1 is before I started. I am lucky as my total ground wire is less than 10 feet long. My ground wire consist of old RG8 with the Shield and Center conductor soldered together at the GROUNDROD but I use just the center stranded conductor at my shack common ground. Is this a shielded ground wire?

Fig 2 I have dug about 6 inches of dirt away from the ground clamp. I had wrapped Vinyl tape around the clamp.

Fig 3 shows a clean fresh clamp on the left and the old one just removed on the right.

Fig 4 The top of the ground rod after cleaning with fine sandpaper and BRASSO does not look to bad. This is a copper covered steel 8' rod.

Fig 5 The fresh ground clamp installed before taping.

Fig 6 Another photo of the fresh ground clamp before taping.

Fig 7 Vinyl tape installed on the ground clamp showing my tape end TAB that I always leave for removing the next time.

Fig 8 All finished ready to put the dirt back in.

Fig 9 Completed with the dirt/grass returned.

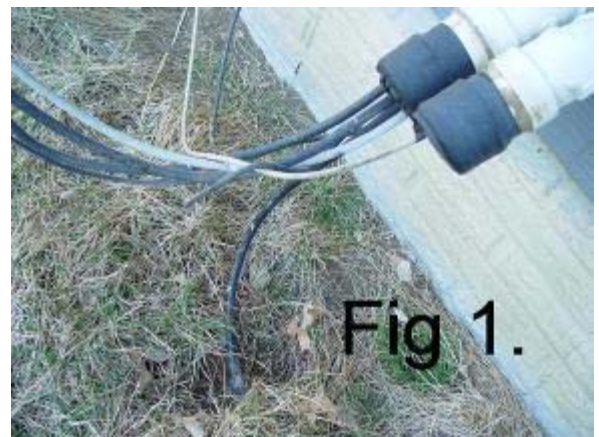
Does it work better? I am afraid to try as I seem to have strange signals showing up on some days and then gone?

Ok! I just checked and many signals on 10, 15, and 20 Meters but of course today March 28th there is a contest going on. Last week I had what sounded like high speed Morse code dots then this cycled on and off? This was on 10, 15, and 20 meters about every 15KHZ. It is gone now?

The last time I reattached the ground wire to the ground clamp it was because just a slight pull on the ground wire pulled it right out of the clamp. My guess was I probably did not have a ground at all. I was lucky to get through the storms.

CHECK YOUR GROUND CONNECTIONS BEFORE THE STORM SEASON HITS. I HAVE ALREADY DISCONNECTED MY RADIOS ONCE DUE TO THE THUNDERSTORM WE HAD JUST RECENTLY. WITH EVEN A SLIGHT CHANCE I DISCONNECT ALL RADIOS AND GROUND MY ANTENNAS.

(Continued on page 15)







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

