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- Bruce Brumm KCØZMT  
President
- Brad Boeckmann WØELI  
Vice-President
- Alisa Payton KEØCHI  
Secretary
- Bill Claypool NUØQ  
Treasurer

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- Mark Globushutz KØMJG
- Ray Harden WØRAY
- Scott Kirstein NØOOD
- Ron Overholser KDØTTO
- Kevin Sanders KØKDS
- Mike Waldron AEØMW

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# STATIC SHEET

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AUGUST 2015

## DMRAA to offer One Day Tech Class

Always looking for opportunities to recruit more folks into Amateur Radio, the DMRAA board has decided to offer a one day technician class. The class will utilize materials from Gordon West WB6NOA. Date, times and location will be announced in early September. Watch the club's website DMRAA.com for details. The fee will include all materials,



study guides and lunch. The class will conclude with ARRL testing which is included in the registration fee. With successful completion of the test, the new ham will receive a dual-band HT. We would encourage all club members to promote the class to their friends, or better yet their XYL!



## Des Moines International Airport Full Scale Exercise

On Saturday August 8th, Polk County ARES assisted with the Des Moines International Airport Full Scale Exercise. This drill, which is held every three years, requires many hours of planning as well as well over a hundred folks to adequately staff the event. Polk County ARES was not directly involved in the communications for the emergency response. ARES provided communications for the evaluators and controllers of the drill. Twenty operators assisted in this task. The scenario involved a

simulated aircraft that lost power in one engine during take off. After declaring an emergency the plane crashed with 84 souls on board. Des Moines Fire as well as ambulances from several nearby communities assisted in the drill.

One Day Tech  
Class  
Check  
dmraa.com





Come enjoy the fellowship

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



# Upcoming Meetings

**August 25th**  
**7:00 PM**  
**FIELD TRIP!!!!**

**Road Trip to visit the Tony, NØNI Contest Station located near Rippey, Iowa.**  
**Details and possible car pools to be announced**



**September 22nd Meeting**  
**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
**42nd & Ingersoll**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Geocaching**

## 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.

## Close Call

The storms that sent club members running for cover at the last meeting also had a little fun at home. A lightning bolt some 50 feet from NØVPR's house blew out a laptop computer's power cord. No damage other than a little art work on the wall. (Phew!)





Giving back through  
community service

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



Polk County ARES Meeting

Polk County EOC  
1907 Carpenter Ave.  
Des Moines, IA



# Polk County ARES



By the time you read this, we will be about half way through the 2015 ARES season. So far – so good as they say, but seriously, again, thank you for all of your efforts to support these events. I can appreciate the time commitment and sacrifices that are made each time any of you answer the call for help.

It occurs to me that “Thank You” is a difficult phrase for people to use. I try to make it a point to thank those who help me in my daily interaction with people. I try to make extra effort to thank folks who volunteer for ARES events, to those who have volunteered for leadership positions in the DMRAA or Polk County ARES – I know what a time commitment they are agreeing to (even though this is sometimes billed as “just one more additional hour a month”).

Polk County ARES is not about any one individual. It’s certainly not about me. It’s about providing a Public Service. (I won’t go into my feelings on Public Service in this column, as most of you have read those thoughts previously.) All of these events we support are about getting better at communicating as a group. There is some residual

benefit for the served organization, but the group that gets the most benefit out of us “standing the post” is Polk County ARES.

The equipment in the trailer, the trailer itself, the financial contributions that have been made by various individuals and clubs – including DMRAA – and the time commitment of the volunteers are based on the premise that Public Service is an important part of our hobby. Lest have not communicated this sentiment enough: “THANK YOU” for your support of Polk County ARES!

Some additional “thank you’s:”

Thank you to Kevin Farnsley, NØIWT, who has been a Net Control station for the 7:00pm Thursday night Polk County ARES Net. He has stepped down.

Thank you to Bob Jimmerson, KAØOMM; Ron Hobbs, NØXWI; both of whom continue to serve at Net Control Stations.

Thank you to Ron Overholser, KDØTTO who has volunteered to fill the opening created by Kevin’s departure.

Thanks as well to everyone who fills in as Net Control for this Net – which may very well be the longest running VHF Net in central Iowa. I remember listening to the Thursday night Net on a scanner before I was licensed in 1991. If you would like to get some experience in running a Net, and more familiarity with Net operations, let me know, and I’ll find an opportunity to get you plugged in.

Also thank you to the

DMRAA for the continued use of the 146.340/940 repeater for this Net.

Another thank you to Don Price, KCØMTF who helped out by serving as the lead person for the Iowa State Fair parade. As mentioned above, these events don’t “run themselves” and I especially appreciate his willingness to take charge and run this event.

You will find additional opportunities to help out for the remainder of the season, please look at your calendars and let me know if you are available for any of these events. Additionally, this fall – when things calm down – I will be revising the Polk County ARES Emergency Operations Plan. If you are interested in helping with this project, please let me know.

Thanks to you as well for reading . . .

Scott  
NØOOD

## ARES MEETING DATES 2015

Monday, 12-October 7:00pm  
Events

Head of the Des Moines Rowing Regatta  
September 26th, 2015  
Des Moines Marathon,  
October 18th, 2015  
Living History Farms Fun Race,  
November 21, 2015



# 2014 DMRAA Calendar



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

## Calendar 2015-16

### General Meetings and Events

25 August, 2015  
22 September, 2015  
27 October, 2015  
24 November, 2015 Chili  
Feed / Auction  
8 December, 2015 DMRAA  
Christmas Party  
26 January, 2016  
22 February, 2016  
22 March, 2016  
16 April, 2016 Hamfest  
26 April, 2016  
24 May, 2016  
June 25, 2016 Field Day

### Board Meeting Dates

1 September, 2015  
6 October, 2015  
3 November, 2015  
5 January, 2016  
2 February, 2016  
1 March, 2016  
5 April, 2016  
3 May, 2016  
7 June, 2016  
2 August, 2016  
6 September, 2016  
4 October, 2016



You have now 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



## President's Soapbox

The original sidebar quote by Chet Adkins was to be "Everything I've done was out of fear of being mediocre." I didn't feel that was quite true, and would lend an air to the readers of this fine column that their board and president are insecure or indifferent. Quite the contrary, we have an involved group of individuals and strive to deliver fresh and interesting meeting content, as well as try new methodologies — hence the new quote.

One recent board meeting debate surrounded the development and sponsorship of a one-day Technician License class. It was about as lively a debate as we've had in recent memory. Plusses and minuses aside, we agreed in the end to forge ahead with this class and hopefully involve some new people in the hobby who otherwise could not invest in the time commitment of a traditional class.

We certainly don't wish to become so unpredictable as to be characterized as being rash or erratic, so continue to ex-

pect the unexpected in a more refined manner.

We did recently have a new club appointment that I should acknowledge. Kirk Nelson has stepped aside after serving faithfully as club secretary. We genuinely thank him for his contributions. Replacing him in this position is Lisa Payton, KEØCHI. She is braving the waters of what has traditionally been a man's hobby. Both she and her son Guy (KEØCHJ) have been active in ARES, and I look forward to her continued involvement and input with the club.

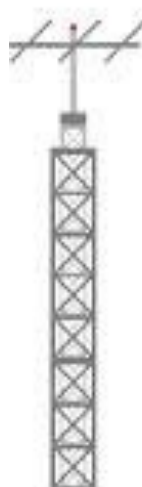
We traditionally begin each club meeting with introductions. The reason for that is so we can become better acquainted with one another and recognize new members or newly licensed hams. Please do make the effort to get to know those just starting out in the hobby. It might be out of your comfort zone to meet new folks, but you'll be glad you did once they become involved and active in our activities.

I'll close this column with another quote:

"If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor." Eleanor Roosevelt.

*"Once you become predictable, no one's interested anymore."*

Chet Adkins,  
W4CGP SK



**Bruce Brumm**  
**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 |
|--------|----------|--------|-----------------------|

### DES MOINES

|           |                  |                  |                                |
|-----------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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     |
| Sunday    | 443.400 t 151.4  | 8:30 pm          | SW Iowa Amateur Radio Assn 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 News Line & Fusion Net |

### INDIANOLA

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

### CRESTON

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

### 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

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 N0CFL  
(515) 795-2162  
n0cfl@arrl.net

### Ames

Saturday 10am October 3rd,  
2015  
Tuesday, 7pm November 10th,  
2015

Saturday, 10am December 5th,  
2015

Location: Room TBD  
Howe Hall, Iowa State campus

### Boone 9:00am

October 10, 2015  
December 12, 2015

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

Contact: Steve N0NEU  
(515) 432-4006

### Marshalltown 9:00am

December 5, 2015

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

Contact:  
Brian Krumm, N0MXK  
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

The DMRAA has club T-Shirts for sale in most sizes.  
\$8 size S-XL

\* 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 amount of amateur radio topics will be discussed.



## ARES Quarterly Meeting



There are several Polk  
County ARES events  
upcoming.

Contact

Scott, NØOOD

[n0ood@arrl.net](mailto:n0ood@arrl.net)

to volunteer



### Are you a member of Polk County ARES?

Have a look at the picture above. You can see the many folks that gather at quarterly meetings.

In this picture Jon Davis, Deputy Polk County Emergency Manager is discussing the needs and uses for the Des Moines Airport Full Emergency Exercise. Jon, KCØUSS is the exercise planner and manager. This time Polk County ARES is providing communications for the evaluation and we are not actually a part of the emergency response.

### 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](mailto:n0vpr@arrl.net)

You need not be a Polk County ARES or DMRAA member to



## Repeater Linking in Des Moines

There have been several upgrades lately to a couple of repeaters in Des Moines. Recently the DMRAA's second repeater at the VA Hospital, WØAK-2 146.985 was upgraded with a UHF remote base radio. This upgrade allows the repeater to be linked with any one of several local UHF repeaters in the area. Similarly the Polk County ARES repeater at Methodist Hospital KØDSM 444.100 was fitted with a VHF remote base, which allows it to be linked with any one of the local VHF repeaters.

These upgrades can be useful for various ARES supported events as recently shown for the Market to Market Relay Race and the 2015 Dam to Dam Half Marathon. With both events operators could hear all event traffic.

# The Joy of CW

27 July 2015 by Steve VE7SL

I receive a lot of e-mail from both hams and future hams that are struggling with CW. It seems there are a lot of hams that don't operate any CW simply because of their code skills. For myself, learning CW as a pre-teen, was a bit of a struggle, as I learned CW from flash cards ... definitely the wrong way. In my case, the code was learned in order to operate an Aldis lamp signaling system for my scouting activities. When eventually switching to a hand key and buzzer, I had to make the mental switch between the picture of the flash card and the sound of the code, taking me much longer to reach my goals than if I had learned just by sound. If I were learning the code today, or if advising anyone struggling with CW, I would suggest several ways of making it easier.

1. *Too many newcomers want to learn CW using a keyer. Put the keyer away and get yourself a hand key. It need not be fancy or expensive.*
2. *Use the hand key to practice sending similar-sounding letters (E, I, S, H etc) slowly and correctly. Don't be concerned about sending them fast but concentrate on getting a uniform spacing between each element of the letter. As you slowly learn the letters and how they sound, you will find your sending speeding-up, unconsciously, as you progress.*
3. *Combine your sending practice with receiving practice and try to do 10 minutes of each during each practice session. One session per day will guarantee success, if you stick with it. If you can't do it every day then try and commit to every other day.*
4. *For receiving practice, use a much higher speed than what you are sending at. Once again, in sets of similar-sounding letters, try and learn the letters when sent at a speed of at least 15WPM, but with wide spaces between each letter ... so they aren't coming at you as fast. This is the Farnsworth method of learning code. Learning what the letters sound like when sent at a fast speed will eliminate the dreaded 'learning plateaus' associated with learning at slower speeds, when you can get stuck at a lower speed for some length of time. I only wish that I had known of this method when I was a kid, but I don't think it had been thought of back then.*
5. *There are lots of websites that will help you in Step 4 and one that I have played with seems to*

*work very well. You can set up a slow-speed spacing but have characters sent at 15WPM or faster (start with 15WPM). You can pick only the letters that you wish to practice (T,M,O,A,N etc) and then get a printout of what was actually sent to check your accuracy.*



## 5. *The one I tested is by AA9PW and can be found here.*

In addition, the ARRL's W1AW, provides nightly code practice on various frequencies and also provides archived CW practice sessions at various speeds via their website here. Once you become somewhat competent in both sending and receiving, don't be afraid to get on the air and use your new skills. Don't be concerned about sending fast. Be careful about sending faster than you can receive, an easy trap to fall into. There are always several stations around 7.110-7.125 every

afternoon and evening that seem very happy to communicate at comfortable speeds. If you don't get on-the-air, then make sure that you still do your daily 20 minutes of practice. You will be amazed at how quickly you can learn the code or increase your speed, with this daily routine. This short daily commitment to practice (on the air or otherwise) is the key to success. If you aren't using CW, you're missing out on a lot of fun.

If you aren't using CW, you're missing out on a lot of fun. To this day, CW is still my favorite mode and almost 100% of my on-air operating is on CW ... it's just plain fun! Knowing how to use CW will open up a lot of opportunities to enjoy it ... CW contesting, chasing DX, CW nets, staying in touch with friends etc ... CW will always get through better than phone under most conditions. So ... if you have been struggling with the code, or putting it off, there's no time like the present to join the fun. Hopefully you will find these suggestions helpful.

Thanks to Bob, K2DSW  
for forwarding this article







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

