



BSARC



Wednesday, August 5, 2010
 Volume 22, Issue 8

Email: kb0vbn@arrl.net

Also, see: <http://www.bsarc.us/>

It's your meeting

—

The regular monthly meeting of the Blue Springs Amateur Radio Club will be held Thursday, August 12, at 7:30 PM in the Annex B building on the east side of the St. Mary's Medical Center grounds. Enter the property from Mock St. on the north side.

Social period, coffee and cookies will be available, as always

Come visit and be a part of the activities.

KB0VBN

147.015 +
 PL=151.4

444.950 +
 PL = 107.2

An ARRL
 Affiliated
 Club



Program —

Almost time to get ready for the Blue Springs Fall Fun Fest – September 17 – 20.

Our equipment and supply storage problems have been resolved. See page 7 for details.

Etc. –

We nearly had a full house last week.

Come on out for the meeting and see what is happening.

Inside . . .

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Credit is given to [The ARRL Letter](#) and The American Radio Relay League for material reproduced in this newsletter

BSARC 2010 OFFICERS

President Chris, KC0UME
Vice-president Ben, KC0PCQ
Secretary Roger, KC0CGK
Treasurer Don, WA3BYO
Emerg. Comm.
Coordinator John, N0RES
Newsletter
Editor Gary, N0AOK
Past President Tim, KC0NIN

ARRL New Memberships & Renewals:

Our Club gets to keep \$2 for each renewal – And, they will allow us to keep \$15.00 of a **new** membership fee when processed through the Club. Keep this in mind when visiting with hams that want to become members of the ARRL.

Birthdays this month:



08/02 KD0DGB Lorn Dennis
08/07 KB0YUV Clifford Dunning
08/10 KC0DMI Terry Bernhardt
08/11 K0RCD Ralph Dickinson
08/18 K8IRB Harold Myers
08/26 NC0D Clark Doughty
08/29 N0BFB Norman Martin

FCC License Renewals Due:

None that we are aware.

BSARC Dues Renewal Reminder:

06/10 KC0UME Chris Dewey
06/10 KC0PCQ Benjamin Napper
07/10 KC0DMI Terry Bernhardt
07/10 K0KIZ George Needham
08/10 KB0YUV Clifford Dunning
08/10 N0AOK Gary White
09/10 N0BFB Norman Martin

While you're thinking about it, please send in your dues. - \$12 You know it will slip your mind once you set this newsletter aside.

Remit to the address in the upper left corner of page 1.

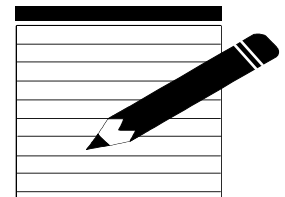
Repeater Nets

- None are conducted at this time

Testing

- 4th Saturday, 9 am, write Jim, N0SAK, arnold-j@swbell.net

Mid-Continent Library, Blue Springs North Branch



Hamfests of Interest:

9/18	Pony Express Hamfest	St. Joseph, MO
10/16	SouthSide ARC Octoberfest	Belton, MO
10/29	Ensor Museum Auction & Special Event	Olathe, KS
1/15/11	Midwest Search & Rescue Emergency Communications Team Hamfest	North Kansas City, MO

Input your ideas, articles, etc. via e-mail to kb0vbn@arrl.net or snail mail to the Club address on page one.

Club Repeater Info...

BSARC repeaters, KB0VBN/R, are located in Blue Springs, Missouri. They operate on 444.950+ MHz (107.2 Hz. PL) and 147.015+ MHz (151.4 Hz. PL). The PL tones are always on to mitigate interference – not to discourage use.

The repeaters are open to all radio amateurs.

Emergency Communications...

As part of our civic activities, the Club aids the Central Jackson County Fire Protection District and the Blue Springs Police Department by providing auxiliary communications during times of need. Primarily, this means that we get called out during severe weather to provide sky-watch services thus relieving police and firemen for other duties. All Club members are encouraged to help in this endeavor. A license is NOT required to participate. Contact the Emergency Communications Coordinator for more information - our Club and community need you.

BSARC Minutes of our last meeting

The minutes will be read at the meeting

ARRL Argues that Oklahoma Town's RFI Ordinance is "Null and Void"

Saying that only the Federal Communications Commission is empowered to regulate radio frequency interference (RFI), the ARRL has notified Midwest City, Oklahoma, that its local ordinance 27-3(9), seeking to regulate radio transmissions and RFI, is "null and void." Midwest City is in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

Midwest City's Ordinance 27-3(9) reads: "In addition to other public nuisances declared by other sections of this Code or law, the following [is] hereby declared to be [a] public nuisance: Operating or using any electrical apparatus or machine which materially and unduly interferes with radio or television reception by others." Section 27 of Midwest City's Ordinances deals with nuisances.

On July 21, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, wrote to Midwest City Assistant City Manager Dave Ballew, City Attorney Katherine Bolles and Director of Code Enforcement Mike Stroh, informing them that the ARRL had been provided with a copy of the ordinance by amateurs in that community. "We are also aware that a notice was sent by Mr Stroh on behalf of the City to one of ARRL's members who resides in Midwest City asserting that the FCC-licensed radio amateur to whom the letter was addressed was in violation of the ordinance as the result of radio frequency interference appearing in a neighbor/complainant's home electronic equipment," the letter read. "The licensed radio amateur was ordered to remedy the problem in one day, under penalty of a sanction assessed against the real property of the radio amateur."

Section 27-2 of the nuisance ordinance states the penalty for non-compliance: "It shall be unlawful for any person to create or maintain a public nuisance within the or [sic] to permit a public nuisance to remain on premises under his control within the city" and that "the punishment for a violation of this chapter shall be a minimum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or fifteen (15) days imprisonment or both such fine and imprisonment and shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or thirty (30) days imprisonment or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day a violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense."

The letter explained to the Midwest City officials that as the FCC is the only entity empowered to regulate RFI, that this matter "is not a proper subject for municipal regulation by Midwest City, and your ordinance 27-3(9), which purports to regulate RFI is preempted on its face, and is therefore *null and void*. The City in fact has absolutely no jurisdiction whatsoever over radio frequency interference. Such regulation is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission and *all regulation of radio transmission and interference phenomena is preempted by Federal law*."

All radio stations operate, and all telecommunications are regulated pursuant to the *Communications Act of 1934, As Amended*. The FCC has exclusive jurisdiction over RFI matters and all technical matters associated with radio communications. In the letter, General Counsel Imlay presented almost 20 legal cases defining the Commission's role and its sole authority over these matters.

In the Communications Amendments Act of 1982, the legislation clearly demonstrated that Congress intended to completely preempt the regulation of RFI: "The Conference Substitute is further intended to clarify the reservation over matters involving RFI. Such matters will not be regulated by local or state law, nor shall radio transmitting apparatus be subject to local or state regulation as part of any effort to resolve an RFI complaint. The Conferees believe that radio transmitter operators should not be subject to fines, forfeitures, or other liability imposed by any local or state authority as a result of interference appearing in home electronic equipment or systems. Rather, the Conferees intend that regulation of RFI phenomena shall be imposed only by the [Federal Communications] Commission." The Conference also clarified that "the exclusive jurisdiction over RFI incidents (including preemption of state and local regulation of such phenomena) lies with the FCC."

General Counsel Imlay expressed his hope that it will not be necessary to submit Midwest City's Ordinance 27-3(9) to the FCC by way of a *Request for a Declaratory Ruling*, "but that would be [the ARRL's] planned course of action unless Ordinance 27-3(9) is rescinded and that letter from Mr Stroh to the radio amateur in Midwest City is retracted immediately. That radio amateur has the full support of ARRL in any action he may choose to take in this connection."

The Bands "Heat Up" for the 2010 ARRL UHF Contest

VHF/UHF weak-signal operators across North America are making the final tests on their stations in preparation for the ARRL UHF Contest, coming up the weekend of August 7-8. Most VHF+ weak-signal operation takes place on the two lowest-frequency bands of the VHF spectrum -- 6 and 2 meters; however, a lot of activity takes place above 144 MHz in the UHF portion of the radio spectrum and beyond. This contest focuses on 222 MHz and above; there will be lots of activity, and hopefully lots of propagation, too! Read more [here](#).

ARDF Update: Radio Foxhunters Find Their Champions in Ohio

By Joe Moell, K0OV, Contributing Editor, ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator, k0ov@homingin.com

No shack potatoes here! These radio-orienteeing enthusiasts took to the beautiful woods of the Buckeye State in pursuit of transmitters and medals.

They came from 15 states and four foreign countries. In their suitcases were radio sets, antennas, sun block and running shoes, but they left some room in hopes of taking home a medal or two. They were the hams and future hams -- ranging from age 12 to older than 70 -- who went to Southwest Ohio in the third week of May for the 10th Annual USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding ([ARDF](#)).

Some arrived early for the optional “training camp” where they would get practical lessons in the sport, also called on-foot foxhunting and radio-orienteeing because it combines radio direction finding and map-and-compass navigation in the woods. And what woods they were! It would be hard to find another place in the USA with more and better-mapped forests for this growing sport. Four separate sites were used just for the two training days.

ARDF is done on 80 meter CW and 2 meter AM in separate events, each with five “fox” transmitters. A course is typically three miles from start to each of the five transmitters (in optimum order) and then to the finish. Your mission is to find your assigned three, four or all five foxes, depending on which of the [11 age/gender categories](#) you are in. Each transmitter is on for one minute at a time in a five-fox cycle that repeats. You must find your way on foot with just your direction-finding gear, the map you’re given and your compass. GPS help is not allowed.

This was the second time that hams from all over the country have come to the Buckeye State to strive for ARDF medals. The [first time](#) was in July 2003, with participants bunking in dormitories on the Miami University campus. This time, the headquarters was an inn nearby in Franklin, Ohio, with more participants from more states.

A Worldwide Sport

All-on-foot transmitter hunting began informally about six decades ago in Europe, gaining so much in popularity in so many countries that the first World Championships were organized in 1980. The five-fox cycle and other rules were established by a committee of the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) to standardize the sport so that it would be the same in all countries, as hams trained for international events.

There are two sets of gold, silver and bronze medals in the USA Championships. Everyone competes for one set, while the other is just for Team USA’s competitors. This makes it possible for stateside hams to win two medals in one try.

Heading up the organizers of this year’s events were Bob Frey, WA6EZV, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Dick Arnett, WB4SUV, of Erlanger, Kentucky. Both have earned medals at previous USA championships and each has represented USA at the World Championships in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006.

Both WA6EZV and WB4SUV wanted to compete this year too, so Bob teamed up with Brian DeYoung, K4BRI, to plan and execute the 2 meter event on Saturday. Dick, who was told nothing about this course, ran that day with all the other competitors. Sunday’s 80 meter course was laid out and set by WB4SUV and Matthew Robbins, AA9YH, allowing WA6EZV to compete on that day.

Competitors received 11×17 inch color maps 10 minutes before their scheduled start times; they could fold them or mount them on a flat surface if they wished. Large map boards made from discarded political campaign signs were provided for those who wanted them.

In accordance with IARU rules, competitors are individually timed. They start out on the course in groups at 5 minute intervals, with the starting horn coinciding with fox #1 coming on the air. No two people in a group are in the same age/gender category, and since each category has a different set of three, four or five foxes to find, there are no follow-the-leader problems.

ARDF scoring is primarily by number of transmitters found, and secondarily by elapsed time. There is a limit, usually three hours, after which a contestant is disqualified. This makes it important to keep track of your time on the course. If you have found all but one of your required transmitters and time is getting short, you have a decision to make. Do you go to the finish and be listed after all those who found all the foxes for their category, or do you press on for that final fox and risk losing it all by being a few seconds -- or minutes -- over the limit?

Saturday’s 2 meter event was in Hueston Woods State Park, about four miles east of the Ohio-Indiana border near the town of College Corner. Heavy rain the previous evening had made the trails very muddy, but that didn’t slow down Bryan Ackerly,

Continued next page

VK3YNG, of Ferntree Gully, Australia. His marathon training made him the fastest of the day, finding all five 2 meter foxes and getting to the finish in one hour and 24 minutes. USA's fastest in that category was Ian Smith of Somerville, Massachusetts, who finished just 20 minutes later, at 1:44.

Stateside hams won almost all of the other overall gold medals in categories for men and boys on 2 meters: Addison Bosley, KJ4VCV, of Erlanger, Kentucky, was first in M19; Matthew Robbins, AA9YH, of Cincinnati, Ohio, got the gold in M40, and George Neal, KF6YKN, of Maspeth, New York, was best in M50. Two years ago, George became the [second Team USA member to capture a medal at the ARDF World Championships](#). Long-time orienteer Bob Cooley KF6VSE, of Pleasanton, California, won first in M60.

No Americans competed in the new category for men over age 70. That 2 meter gold went to Per-Axel Nordwaeger, SM0BGU, of Bromma, Sweden. He was the course-setter of the 1994 World Championships in Stockholm, and he is still a leading competitor for his country as he turns 72 years young this year.

In the categories for women, 2 meter overall gold medals were captured by Lori Huberman of Cambridge, Massachusetts (F21), Susanne Walz, DG4SFF, of Reutlingen, Germany (F35), Judy Taylor, WD8EOP, of Huntington, West Virginia (F50), and Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG, of Raleigh, North Carolina (F60). USA gold in F35 went to Jennifer Harker, W5JEN, of Austin, Texas.

The 80 meter event on Sunday took place in the Miami University Natural Areas, a mix of wooded and developed parcels located just north of the main campus. Harker's Run meanders through the middle of it, a creek that was twice as deep as usual due to of the recent rains. One could still wade across in many places, so WB4SUV and AA9YH decided to put the creek in the corridor leading to the finish line. Spectators had great fun watching some foxhunters tear through it as if running on water. Others stopped, considered their options then carefully walked through.

Eighty meter signals aren't reflected from hills and wet trees like 2 meter signals can be, so bearings are much more precise and competitor times are usually better. At just 53 minutes and 30 seconds, Ian Smith had the best five-fox time this day, beating VK3YNG by 15 minutes.

With AA9YH not competing in the M40 category because he designed the course, that overall gold went to Matthias Kuehlewein, DL3SDO, of Tuebingen, Germany, followed by USA gold winner Leszek Lechowicz, NI1L, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts. All other category gold winners were the same as on two meters except F50, where no medals were awarded.

World Championships Coming Next

The best performers in each category of the championships in Ohio and the [championships last year near Boston](#) have been invited to join ARDF Team USA and travel at their own expense to the 15th ARDF World Championships in Opatija, Croatia in mid-September. USA's team roster is being finalized at this time. Members of the team are attending training events in their localities, including a pair of two-day events at Mt Pinos near Frazier Park, California.

I will have the results of Team USA's trip to Croatia in an upcoming "ARDF Update," as well as the announcement of next year's USA championships. Our national championships are open to all, so now is the time to start learning the sport and helping the promising radio-orientees in your own area to get ready.

For more information about ARDF Team USA and the sport of ARDF, plus [many more photos of the championships in Ohio](#), visit my Web site www.homingin.com.

Solar Update

Tad "[Somewhere in this favored land the Sun is shining bright](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: We've seen increasing solar activity all this week, with average the daily sunspot numbers rising nearly 14 points to 35.6, and the average daily solar flux rising nearly 5 points to 85.3. Sunspot group 1089 has grown, shrunk and is now growing again; as of Wednesday, it has been visible a total of 10 days. Three more sunspot groups appeared this week, with the latest -- group 1092 -- rapidly appearing on Wednesday with a relative size of 180 millionths of a solar hemisphere. The relative size of group 1089 for July 19-28 was 130, 150, 310, 240, 200, 160, 140, 100, 70 and 90. The predicted solar flux (as of Wednesday) for July 29 is 85, 87 for July 30-August 1 and 85 for August 2-4. The predicted planetary A index for those days is 15 for July 29, 10 on July 30-31, 8 on August 1-2 and 6 on August 3-4. Along with increased solar activity, we have seen higher geomagnetic indicators, all due to a stiff solar wind. Both the planetary and mid-latitude A indices nearly doubled for the week. Look for more information -- including a look at sunspot activity and predictions, as well as 6 meter activity now compared to the 2000-2001 sporadic-E seasons -- on the ARRL Web site on Friday, July 30. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Ernest L. Thayer's [Casey at the Bat](#).

Government Agencies Introduce User-Friendly *Federal Register*

While the *Federal Register* may be the ultimate record of the business of the USA's Executive Branch, it can be a difficult document to navigate. The *Register* publishes approximately 80,000 pages of documents each year in the form of Notices, Proposed Rules, Rules and Official Documents; this is where all new and amended rules to Part 97, the Amateur Radio Service, must be published before they will go into effect.

On Monday, July 27 -- in an effort to make things a bit easier on the thousands of people who access the *Federal Register* each and every day -- the US Government Printing Office ([GPO](#)) and the National Archives' Office of the *Federal Register* ([OFR](#)) launched a new and improved online *Register* -- named [Federal Register 2.0](#) -- an outgrowth of President Obama's first executive order that mandated greater transparency in federal government. The launch of the new site coincides with the 75th anniversary of the Federal Register Act on July 26, 1935.

"In much the same way that newspapers have looked at making content more accessible by changing the print and typeface, we can now do the same thing by making the *Federal Register* available such that people can manipulate it and customize it and reuse the content to make the information even more accessible," said White House Open Government Initiative Director Beth Noveck.

On the older version of the *Register's* Web site, you had to know specific search terms (such as the page number the article was on). The new site now lets users choose which category they would like to search in: Money, Environment, World, Science and Technology, Business and Industry, and Health and Welfare. Issues involving Amateur Radio would mainly be in the Science and Technology category, but others might be in Environment or Business and Industry.

The new site also boasts an "at a glance" feature on its landing page that lets users immediately know how many Notices, Proposed Rules, Rules, Significant Regulations and pages are in the current issue of the *Register*. Users can also quickly see how many articles and how many comment periods are ending.

Users can plug in search terms, such as "ARRL" and a list of articles including "ARRL" will be listed. On Tuesday, July 28, this included 39 articles from March 9, 1994 ([Proposal to Establish a Vanity Call Sign System in the Amateur Service](#)) to June 15, 2010 ([Amateur Radio Use of the Allocation at 5 MHz](#)). It also shows 49 events -- such as comment periods closing or opening and the effective date of rules -- and one Unified Agenda Item ([Broadband Over Power Line Systems](#)) that was marked "economically significant."

When searching "ARRL," users can also find at a glance how many articles have been released in the last [30](#), [90](#) and [365 days](#). Users can also see how many of the 39 articles were [Notices](#), [Proposed Rules](#) and [Rules](#), as well as which agency each article is affiliated with (sometimes the ARRL deals with more than just the FCC) and the topic. Right now, the topics on *Federal Register 2.0's* ARRL search page include (in order of the number of articles attributed to each subject) [Radio](#), [Communications Equipment](#), [Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements](#), [Administrative Practice and Procedure](#), [Privacy](#), and [Television](#). Each of these search topics are accompanied by a link -- click on "Rule" and you will be taken to a page with all 21 Rules; click on "Communications Equipment" and you will be taken to a page with all eight articles on that subject.

Issues of the *Register* going back to 2000 will be [available](#) in a form known in the Web world as Extensible Markup Language ([XML](#)). This lets users to transport data from a Web site and store it, reorganize it or customize it elsewhere. In a press release from the GPO, officials said that this move puts readers, rather than the government, in charge of deciding how to access the *Register's* reams of information.

According to White House officials, *Federal Register 2.0* should make it easier for users to find their specific topic without having to wade through volumes of unrelated material, allowing users, including Web site designers, to quickly gather data and manipulate the information with tools, such as mapping software, word clouds, spreadsheets and e-mail alert systems. In the future, Amateur Radio operators tracking FCC policies might subscribe to an e-mail alert system built by a good-government group that will notify them of updates published in the *Register*. A California resident monitoring the impact of federal regulations on his neighborhood might visit a Web site that allows him to search the *Register's* items by state, county and Zip code.

According to Director of the *Federal Register* Ray Mosley, it cost the government approximately \$100,000 to convert the *Federal Register* issues dating to 2000. The *Register* went online in 1994, and converting issues from 1994 to 2000 will cost at least another \$150,000, he said. He anticipated little effect on his staff of 59 editors, technical experts and lawyers.

The Office of the *Federal Register* publishes the *Register* each business day. The first issue, published March 14, 1936, had 11 pages; the issue on Tuesday, July 27 had 264. According to the White House, the *Register* published 79,435 pages in 31,879 documents during fiscal year 2008, its largest year ever; online readers downloaded more than 200 million *Register* documents in fiscal year 2009. The *Federal Register* also has its own [Facebook page](#). -- Some information provided by [The Washington Post](#)

FCC Launches Consumer Help Center

Beginning July 28, those who have dealings with the FCC will have a new tool that the FCC claims will put them “within one click of all the information they want” from the Commission: a new “easy-to-use” [Consumer Help Center](#).

“Our new Consumer Help Center makes it easy for consumers to learn about our work and take action,” said FCC Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau Joel Gurin said in a press release. “Here, in one place, consumers can do a number of things, such as read about consumer issues, get practical advice for avoiding problems, file a complaint, comment on our rulemakings, or read what our FCC experts are saying in our Consumer Blog.”

The Consumer Help Center is produced by the FCC’s Consumer Task Force, an inter-bureau group established by Chairman Julius Genachowski at the beginning of 2010. The Task Force has led several recent initiatives on major consumer issues. The Consumer Help Center includes:

- Everything consumers need to know about Bill Shock and Early Termination Fees -- two common issues that affect wireless customers.
- Savvy Traveler tips -- advice on making phone calls when travelling abroad.
- Broadband Speed Test -- consumers can test the speed of their broadband service.
- Fact Sheet Library -- more than 150 consumer Fact Sheets on telecom subjects.
- Links to additional resources on a range of issues, including privacy.
- Links to file a complaint to the FCC or comment on our rulemakings.
- Blog posts about consumer issues -- with consumer comments welcome.
- News releases, statements and FCC actions.

The site will be updated to include new FCC consumer initiatives as they are launched.

BSARC storage update

At last month’s club meeting we discussed the need for a centralized place to store our goodies.

We have been in existence for well over 20 years and during that time have accumulated many things. Not the least of these is the portable VHF/UHF transceiver sets stored in lock boxes, as well as, an HF station complete with transceiver, power supply and Windom antenna – also in a lock box. We also have supporting supplies like coax, shelters, etc.

The overriding concern is that if a situation arose that required access to these assets and the person storing them was unavailable, what would we do?

I knew that CJCFPD had acquired a ‘new’ training facility and that it was on highway 40 somewhere – so I did a little exploring and came across this monstrous facility (i.e., multiple buildings) with an enormous sign proclaiming that it was the CJCFPD Training Facility. Talk about good timing – I rushed home and made an email appeal to Chief Westermann listing the above concerns and emphasized that we provide storm watch personnel during severe weather and that we host the Lost Child Patrol during the Blue Springs Fall Fun Fest among other things.

The chief and his staff have always been supportive of our endeavors and he has granted us space. As soon as I make contact with Deputy Chief Farley and arrange the details I will make a separate email announcement and while we are moving, will attempt to create an inventory so that we know what is being stored and where.

Newsletter editor, Gary White, NØAOK
