

The RFI AY

SEPTEMBER 2020

The Official Publication of the Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club

A.R.A.C. Inc. P.O. Box 7164 Duluth MN 55807-7164 http://www.thearac.org Dues: Member \$20/Family \$25

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Join us on

Co-Editors:

Kim & Steve Waller
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Is Your Radio Equipment Really Grounded? Measuring the Resistance & Effectiveness of Your Ground System

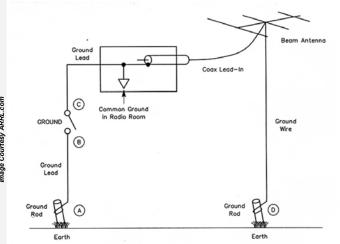
Is your radio equipment really grounded? That's the question that Martin Cardwell NB3T, a ham radio elmer in Baltimore asked in a section of the Assorted Hints and Kinks page at the arrl.com website. Though Cardwell has been a silent key for many years now and the article is old, ARRL still considers it valuable information to be shared. Cardwell writes:

"You may believe your radio equipment, antenna and tower are well-grounded. After all, you drove the ground rods into the earth yourself and connected the ground wire to the rods with heavy-duty clamps. This was my situation. Then I started snooping to locate some new QRN that seemed to be power-line related. I didn't discover the QRN source, but in the process I stumbled across something surprising about my ground connections

"With an ohmmeter, I measured an open circuit from the ground wire to its grounding clamp! This was true for both the equipment ground outside my radio room and for the ground at the base of my beam antenna. I do understand that contact points oxidize and their resistance increases. But the ohmmeter's needle didn't move even on the instrument's X 1000 range! I had no grounds that worked!

"Correcting this situation seemed to be simple: Just solder or weld the ground wire to the ground rod. I did so, but this did not entirely solve the problem. Testing the grounds' resistance now mainly indicated the contact resistance between the ground rod and the earth itself. That resistance was too high. I realized that if the resistance between the wire and the top of the ground rod was high, the resistance between the bottom of the rod is probably high as well.

"I installed my ground rods in 1979. They were neither copper nor copper-covered. I replaced them with 8-foot-long, 5/8-inch diameter rods that essentially consisted of 1/2-inch copper pipe with their centers solidly filled by iron rods.



The letters indicate test points for diagnostic use as described in the text.

"Hints and Kinks readers may be interested in how I checked the resistance from rod to earth. [This diagram] shows my setup, an arrangement that is probably quite common. If an ohmmeter is connected across B and C with the GROUND switch open, the indicated resistance is that of the entire closed loop of A to B to C to D and back to A through the earth. The wire part of this complete loop is less than 3 ohms.

Continued on page 15

ARAC Board Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2020

PRESIDENT



NØVRM
Gene Ellefsen
371Ø Chambersburg Ave
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VICE PRESIDENT



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TREASURER



KEØNIT
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763-315-2967
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3RD YEAR BOARD



AAØAC Dave Davis

218-348-6649 aaØac@outlook.com

2ND YEAR BOARD



AAØME Randy Johnson

randy@nsw4x4.com

1ST YEAR BOARD



KD9ABS Gary Minter 1621 N 26th St Superior WI 5488Ø Present: Gene Ellefsen-N0VRM, Mike Lovold-N0PDG, Bruce Carlson-

KE0NIT, Robin Davis, Dave Davis-AA0AC, Gary Minter-KD9ABS, Randy Johnson-AA0ME, Grant Forsyth-KC0WUP, Randy Wabik-

KR0B, Doug Nelson-AA0AW

Meeting called to order by President Gene-N0VRM at 6:41 pm

Minutes:

Minutes posted in newsletter and on the web site. Motion to accept by Dave-AA0AC, seconded by Gary-KD9ABS, motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

<u>reasurer s ixeport.</u>	
Checking	1,598.85
Savings	773.50
Cash Subtotal	
	. ,
Outstanding Check (Repeater # 1414)	-1.100.00
Outstanding Check (WDSE Donation)	-1,200.00
Subtotal Checks	\$2,300.00
Winter CD	1.714.03
Summer CD	
CD Subtotal	
Grand Total	\$3 486 38
Orana rotar	φο, του.σο

Any major expenses left for the year? Ham Fest upfront costs, food prizes, building rental at so much per person, etc.

Gene-N0VRM and Bruce-KE0NIT motioned to move money from Summer CD to cash accounts to cover the outstanding checks

Motion to approve by Gary-KD9ABS, seconded by Mike-N0PDG, motion passed

Committee Reports:

Ham Fest:

Bob Schultz-KC0NFB is calling about making a decision. We don't know what is going to happen yet. Suggestion to play it by ear until September 1, 2020. 25% capacity is possible. It wouldn't be feasible with restricted attendance to hold the Fest. We usually get around 400 attendees. Suggestion to wait until September 1, 2020, to make a decision.

Brainerd is having their Tail Gate Ham Fest but that is located outside. The Crow Wing County Fairgrounds is huge so they can accommodate a lot of folks. It will be held August 22, 2020, in Brainerd

Any other discussion? First Tuesday September 1, 2020, and we can make a decision at that time, at the Board meeting. Let Bob-KC0NFB know that a decision will be made on September 1, 2020. Mike-N0PDG will text Bob-KC0NFB

No major upcoming expenses. Dues will be coming in soon, especially for the folks that renew each year at the Ham Fest. Any member interested in paying their annual dues, please send your check to Bruce-KE0NIT. Gene-N0VRM will make an announcement on the Sunday night nets.

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ARAC Board Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2020

Weekly Nets:

Doug-AA0AW will contact Thomas Dorr-KE0RHA to remove Diane Saunders-K0DSL and Denny Anderson-W0DIO off the Net Rosters

Repeater:

Doug-AAOAW has a PA to put in the main site for the UHF. Gene-N0VRM will contact Larry Anderson-N0XPB to get a key to get access to the 94 Repeater at the WDSE Building

David Pyrlik-K0DJP has a couple of Repeater Cabinets with doors but he has no keys. He stated they are in good condition. He will sell them or donate to a group

Randy-KR0B with Randy Haglin-N0BZZ are not getting to Mahtowa to work on the Repeater. Our equipment is not getting any younger. We need to consider gutting the whole thing and install new equipment. The 94 Repeater is old. It is a good idea. Neither of the Randy's can get to it and parts are not available, etc.

We need to start the discussion to upgrade the Repeater System. We could do a raffle to raise money for that purpose or take donations to cover the costs. We did that for the Mahtowa Repeater

Discussion Points:

100 watt amp
Linking capability
Upgrading System
Modernizing – Jeff Mast-KC0MKS
More Members involved
Internet Link – Pros and Cons
Keep it simple - Analog
Rebuild entire system?

Costs

Manufacturer & options, compatibility

Doug-AA0AW will contact John Kruk-N9UPC for initial information about upgrading the Repeater System and the possibility of linking analog with fusion

Mike-N0PDG will contact John Kruk-N9UPC for Yaesu pricing options

Randy-KR0B will contact Bridgecom for pricing options and will talk to Randy Haglin-N0BZZ

Additional discussion on UHF, linking controllers, RF linking, fusion, analog, simplex, PL tones, etc.

Mike-N0PDG makes a motion to investigate replacing the 94 Repeater and the network, seconded by Gary-KD9ABS, motion passed. Randy-KR0B will also put a call into Randy-N0BZZ to discuss the possibilities of upgrading the entire Repeater system by ARAC

New Business:

Greg Haapala, Grandma's Race Director, contacted Doug-AA0AW and there will be a Minnesota Mile and the Fitger's 50 Mile Race. Park Point Five Miler is the standard and it came off just fine. MN Mile is extended by two (2) hours to socially distance and Fitger's extended by twelve (12) hours to socially distance. The COD is in agreement with their plans.

New Operator:

Tom Maida-KF0ALP is a new Ham (Traffic Sargent for COD DPD).

Anything else?

Motion to adjourn by Bruce-KE0NIT, seconded by Randy-AA0ME, motion passed

Meeting ended at 7:32 pm



Prez Sez...

Hi everyone,

I hope you are enjoying your summer the best you can with the Covid 19 restrictions.

We were not able to have our May Hamfest this year and I know some of you usually pay your annual dues there. You can send them to either the Club Post Office Box or directly to our Treasurer Bruce Carlson to stay current for 2020. Since we don't know when we can resume our meetings at the Copper Top Church, you can also include your 2021 dues if you like. Dues are still \$20.00 for a single and \$25.00 for Family.

Thanks and have a great rest of the Summer!

Gene Ellefsen NØVRM

A.R.A.C. Bruce Carlson P.O. Box 6174 906 Anderson Rd. Duluth,MN 55807 Duluth,MN 55811

P.S. Without Hamfest or Fallfest income this year, the Club also welcomes monetary donations in any amount to prepare for 2021 expenses. Thanks so much for participating in any way you can!

Newly Licensed

CONGRATULATIONS

To new hams who have joined our amateur radio community in the last few months, as well as those who have newly upgraded to General or Extra!

◆ Tom Maida — KFOALP is a new Technician as of 6/9/2020!

Tom is Traffic Sergeant for the Duluth Police Department. Welcome!



ARAC Club Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2020

Present:

Vice President Mike Lovold-N0PDG
Treasurer / Membership Bruce Carlson-KE0NIT
Secretary Robin Davis
Third Year Board Dave Davis-AA0AC
Second Year Board Randy Johnson-AA0ME
First Year Board Gary Minter-KD9ABS
Parliamentarian Grant Forsyth-KC0WUP
Property / Picnic Scott Ahlgren-N0VYU
Special Events – Open / Gene Ellefsen-N0VRM acting
Ham Fest / Education Bob Schultz-KC0NFB
Testing Doug Nelson-AA0AW

Absent:

President Gene Ellefsen-N0VRM
Chaplain (Visiting) Rolland Bockbrader-KB0CK
Newsletter / Historian Kim Waller-KE0NQS
Newsletter Steve Waller-KE0NQT
Repeater Randy Wabik-KR0B
Repeater Derek McCorison-W0DNF
Repeater Randy Haglin-N0BZZ
Web Site Thomas Dorr-KE0RHA

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice President Mike-N0PDG

Meeting via 94 Repeater

Treasurer's Report:

Checking	1,598.85
Savings	773.50
Cash Subtotal	\$2,372.35
Outstanding Check (Repeater	# 1414)-1,100.00
Outstanding Check (WDSE Do	
Subtotal Checks	\$2,300.00
Winter CD	
Summer CD	1,700.00
CD Subtotal	\$3,414.03
Grand Total	\$3,486.38

Grant-KC0WUP moved to approve as stated, seconded by Jim Anderson-N0JWA, moving along



ARAC Club Meeting Minutes

Continued from Page 5

Committee Reports:

Education:

Tech Class, starting September 15, 2020, via Zoom, using Gordon West book again this year. Testing is scheduled for December 15, 2020. Register via Duluth Community Education

Ham Fest:

ARAC Fall Fest, scheduled for September 26, 2020. On the hockey rink for the vendors, which is a lot larger. We have twenty-two (22) reservations from vendors as of today. Contact Bob-KC0NFB via email (kc0nfb@charter.net or arac_hamfest@charter.net). Thank you for the information

Testing:

Not much interest right now so no test sessions have been scheduled

Picnic:

Picnic was cancelled for 2020, gone and passed for this year

Old Business:

Nothing heard

New Business:

Brainerd Tail Gate Ham Fest, scheduled for August 21, 2020, which is an outdoor Fest

Anything else for the Club?

Motion to adjourn the Club meeting by Dave-AA0AC, Joe Meese-W0LWU seconded, assumed passed

Thank you to all that participated tonight

Presentation by David Pyrlik-K0DJP and the room is opening. Email Mike-N0PDG (lovoldm@gmail.com) to get sign on information

Meeting ended at 7:12 pm



The ARAC Board is sad to announce the CANCELLATION of the ARAC Hamfest/Fallfest scheduled for September 26th in Carlton, MN.

Covid restrictions have made this event too hard to prepare for and execute this year.

We hope to see everyone in the Amateur Radio community again the spring of 2021 in Superior WI.

Watch your inbox and *The Relay* in the months to come for details on that event.

Hope to see everyone in the spring!

Robert Schulz, KC0NFB

ARAC Hamfest

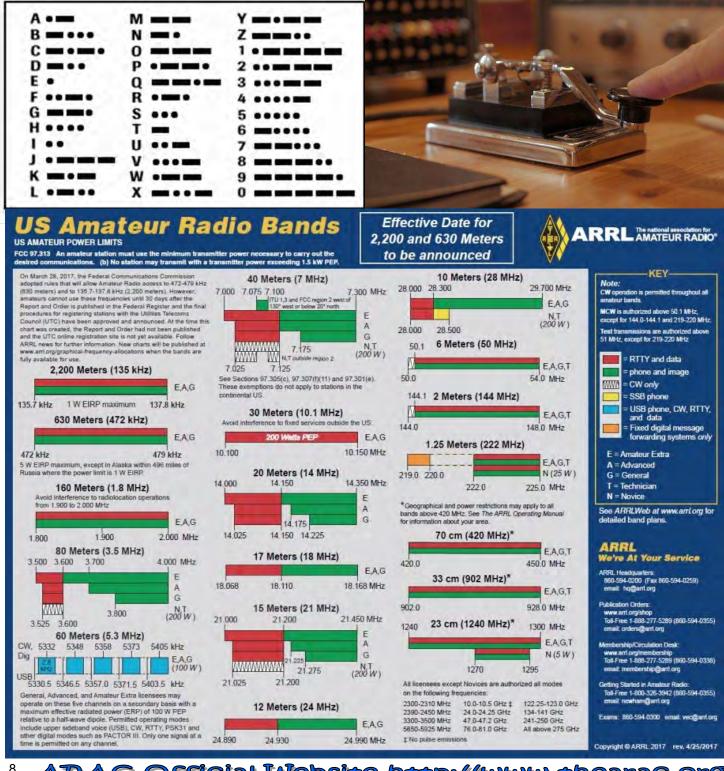
CW Abbreviations

AS Pse QRX BK Back to You SK End of Contact AR End of Message

TU Thank You **PSE Please** K Invite to Transmit

QST Calling all Amateurs QRL Are You Buzy? QRU Have anything for me

QRV Are You Ready? **QRX** Standby **QRS Transit Slower**





Have a favorite HF/6m/2m/1.25m/7Øcm net that you check into or listen in on? Also, please send corrections and we will add it to the list below - Kim KEØNQS at my email KEØNQS.mn@gmail.com.

- Northland Weather Group Net: Mondays 2ØØØ on the ARAC repeater (146.940 MHz with a tone of 103.5 and standard offset).
- Minnesota D-Star Net: Sundays at 19:3Ø on Reflector 53A
- Minnesota Section Net 12ØØ and 173Ø on 3.86Ø [Net Manager: NØYR] http://www.mn-section.org/dept_stm.html
- The non-non-net: Evenings 2ØØØ 144.2ØØ USB except for Sunday evenings.
- Badger WX Net: Ø5ØØ-Ø715 on 3.985. Give 24 hour high/low/current temperature, precipitation and snowfall.
- PICONET: 3.925 from Ø9ØØ-11ØØ CT Mon-Sat and 16ØØ-17ØØ CT Mon-Fri. Info at: http://www.piconet3925.com
- Michigan Upper Peninsula Net: 16ØØ (CST) on 3.921 MHz Sun-Sat and 12ØØ Sun. Info: http://www.michupnet.com
- Great Lakes Marine/Maritime Mobile Net: Morning Ø7:3Ø 3.932; Ø8:15 7.261 MHz and evening 18:3Ø 3.173Ø927; 19:15 7.268 MHz. Weekend extra net: 1Ø:ØØ 7.261/7.268 MHz. All CST, LSB and +/- QRM. See: http://www.sailblogs.com/member/glmmnet/
- MIDCARS: Ø7:3Ø-13:ØØ 7.258 MHz. See: http://www.midcars.net
- lowa snowbird net on 14.257MHz, M-W-F at 1Ø:ØØ am Local Time. This is an open net.
- Spider Web Net (Marco Island FL) on 14.347 every morning at Ø73Ø CST/CDT: http://www.spiderwebnet.net
- Maritime Mobile Service Network: Daily at 11ØØ—21ØØ Central on 14.3ØØ. http://mmsn.org and http://www.143ØØ.net
- RV Radio Network: Every day at 19ØØ Central on 7.265 MHz. Web site: http://www.rvradionetwork.com
- Upper Midwest Ten Meter Net: Every Thursday Evening @ 8 PM 28.48Ø MHz USB
- Wisconsin Sideband Net: Daily @ 5:15 PM 3985 [or 3982.5] KHz LSB
- Upper Midwest Ten Meter Net: Every Thursday Evening @ 8 PM 28.48Ø MHz USB
- Hobby Helpers Net Tuesday @ 8 PM 28.33Ø MHz USB (Isanti MN) LSB [Net Manager: WOØA].
- Northstar Trader Net: 3.9Ø8 +/- at Ø83Ø CST Sundays
- WARFA: 3.9Ø8 +/- Sun/Tue/Thu nights at 22ØØ CST, http://warfa.org/
- Youth Net: 14.32Ø-1433Ø Sundays 18ØØ-19ØØ UTC, Net Control: AC8PI
- YACHT: Saturdays 19ØØ CST on EchoLink #481872, http://yachthams.webstarts.com
- Northwestern Ontario ARES Net: Evenings at 2Ø:15 (Central) on +/- 3.75ØMhz
- The Iron Range Net: Saturdays at Ø8ØØ Central time on or near 3.919 Mhz. Look them up on Facebook!
- FORX Net: Mondays at 19ØØ Central at 3.941 Mhz +/- QRM. WAØJXT Grand Forks, North Dakota
- HF CW: Fridays Ø8:ØØ CST, 7.112 MHz. Informal slow speed CW Net. W8IRT NCS. Email: w8irt@aol.com
- Minnesota ARES Digital Net: Thursdays at 2ØØØ CST, 3.5835 MHz USB +/- QRM, Mode: Olivia 8/5ØØ.
- SARA Digital Net: Sundays at 19ØØ Local, 3.582.15Ø MHz USB +/- QRM, Mode: BPSK31/BPSK63
- Spider Web Net (Marco Island FL): 14.347 every morning at Ø73Ø CST/CDT: http://www.spiderwebnet.net
- Broadcaster Net: 7.231 or 3.855 M/W/F @ 15ØØ UTC. 14.255 M-F @ 213Ø UTC. http://www.cbsretirees.com/ham.htm
- Old Military Radio Net: 7.268 +/- nightly at Ø2ØØz. Other times/Frequencies too. See: http://www.mrca.ar88.net/
- Rag Chew Crew/Tailgaters/Freewheelers Nets: 3.916 +/- nightly at 19ØØ CST, http://www.tailgatersnet.com
- North South Net: 7.214.6 +/- at Ø7ØØ CST, Monday-Saturday



Next ARAC Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 2Ø2Ø @ 6:30 p.m.

House of Refuge Church - 115 W Myrtle St, Duluth

Next ARAC Club Meeting

Thursday,
September 10th
7 p.m.
on the 94 Repeater

September Zoom Program

Matt Holden K0BBC Director, ARRL Dakota Division

You don't need a Zoom account to join our Zoom meeting!
Go to:

https://zoom.us/j/91397255094? pwd=Uk5VR1IDWFZ3VVdSZzRs MElkcExrUT09

Meeting ID: 913 9725 5094

Passcode: z5HB6P

To join by phone audio only, find your local call-in number here:

https://zoom.us/u/abtg46Aky

Interested in providing a program, or have an idea for one?

Contact Mike NØPDG at lovoldm@gmail.com

CLUB REPEATER WØGKP

146.94 (-) CTCSS TONE 103.5



THANK YOU, ARRL Members!

Because of you, ARRL has maintained constant vigilance and taken decisive action throughout the years, including:

- Defeating the threat that Little Leo satellites posed to the 2-meter and 70-cm bands;
- Removing high-powered international broadcasting stations from the heart of the 40-meter band doubling the size of the worldwide band and making it more useful than it had been in 70 years;
- Working with our colleagues in the International Amateur Radio Union to gain global allocations at 135 kHz and 472 kHz (domestic implementation is the next step);
- Battling the Broadband Over PowerLine (BPL) interference for six years including successfully challenging the FCC in court on its prejudice that tainted the rulemaking process; and
- Defending microwave allocations against the onslaught of commercial wireless broadband;
- Seeking an international allocation at 60 meters (5 mHz).

Your contribution to the Spectrum Defense Fund ensures that ARRL will have the resources to meet future challenges when they appear and to protect your operating privileges!

Duluth Area Repeaters

444.100 plus



Proctor)
Fish Lake)

ARAC System		WØGKP		
	Freq.	Offset	Tone	Location
	146.940	minus	103.5	Duluth
	146.940	minus	107.2	Lakeside (recv)
	146.940	minus	151.4	Two Harbors (recv)
	146.940	minus	100.0	Gary-New Duluth (recv)
	146.940	minus	123.0	Solway (recv)
	146.940	minus	110.9	Cloquet (recv)
	147.000	minus	103.5	Mahtowa

103.5

Duluth UHF Link

N9MMU	/N9QWH	H System ((WI)
145.310	minus	110.9	Duluth
145.490	minus	110.9	Solon Springs
147.255	plus	110.9	Hayward
145.110	minus	110.9	Rice Lake
147.345	minus	136.5	Holcombe
145.230	minus	110.9	Eau Claire

WECOMM - WI Statewide Linked System WE9COM

147.075 plus 110.9 Meteor Hill (closest repeater to Duluth)

LSAC System #1				
	147.330	plus	151.4	Proctor
	147.330	plus	103.5	Duluth (recv for
	147.330	plus	156.7	Duluth (North) (
	147.270	plus	114.8	Two Harbors
	147.270	plus	103.5	Wales
	147.090	plus	114.8	Silver Bay
	145.410	minus	114.8	Finland
	147.300	plus	114.8	Isabella
	145.150	minus	103.5	Washburn, WI
	146.700	minus	103.5	Bayfield, WI
	443.850	+5.00	none	Bayfield, WI
	147.165	plus	110.9	Hurley, WI
	146.640	minus	151.4	Ely
	443.500	+5.00	141.3	Gilbert
	147.060	plus	103.5	Virginia
	147.360	plus	162.2	Cook
	147.165	plus	114.8	Coleraine
	443.925	+5.00	110.9	Brainerd

NARC S	ystem	NAØRC		
145.45Ø	minus	1Ø3.5	Solway Twp	
145.45Ø	minus	114.8	Park Point (rcv)	
147.135	plus	114.8	Park Point (rcv)	
147.135	plus	1Ø3.5	Knife River `	
Stand Alone Repeaters				
115 21A	minuo	11/2/0	Clam Laka MI	

145.210	minus	110.9	Clam Lake, WI
146.88Ø	minus	123.Ø	Grand Rapids
146.91Ø	minus	146.2	Duxbury, MN

Fusion and D Star

Fusion (Analog has tone and C4FM digital with no tone)

147.15Ø	plus	151.4	NTØB Gilbert Fusion Rptr
145.17Ø	minus	11Ø.9	WA9KLM Superior -
Doug	glas Count	y RACES/A	ARES Fusion Repeater

443.1ØØ +5.ØØ 1Ø3.5 KBØYHX Cloquet – Carlton County RACES/ARES Fusion Repeater

444.3ØØ +5.ØØ 1Ø3.5 NØEO Spirit Valley Amateurs Fusion Repeater WIRES-X NØEO

> 147.375 plus NØEO D Star 442.2ØØ plus NØEO D Star

[Repeater list compiled by Dr. Frequency—KCØWDQ]

ST. Louis County Department of Emergency Services Net Control Roster

N9DMG Scott Swanson **NØVRM** Gene Ellefsen **AAØAW Doug Nelson KCØWDQ** Paul Dallavia **WØNWO Dave Miller WØDIO Dennis Anderson KØDSL Diane Saunders** AAØME **Randy Johnson**

Sunday Nights at 2100 on the ARAC System (See Calendar for net control schedule)

Ten Meter SSB Net Control Roster

AAØAW Doug Nelson NUØW Gary Hanson WØDIO Dennis Anderson AAØME Randy Johnson Sunday Nights at 2ØØØ on 28.45Ø MHz USB

Ten Meter CW Net Control Roster

AAØAW Doug Nelson NØPDG Mike Lovold Sunday Nights at 193Ø on 28.125 MHz

Northland Weather Group Net Control Roster

KCØMKS Jeff Nast

Monday Nights at 2000 on the ARAC System

Douglas County Net

Tuesday Nights at 2000 on 145.490 (N9QWH System)

Central Carlton County Net

Tuesday Nights at 2030 on the ARAC System

Lake County RACES/ARES Net

2nd & 4th Wednesday Nights at 19ØØ on the LSAC 1 System

Elmers

El-mer / ɛl-mər/ [el-mer]

- 1. a male given name: from Old English words meaning "noble" and "famous."
- 2. an adhesive used to bond like or unlike materials
- 3. An experienced ham radio operator who mentors new and prospective hams.

Name Call **Expertise** KCØMKS Jeff Nast APRS, EchoLink, WinLink, Fusion, Contesting Bob Schulz **KCØNFB** Contesting NØJWA Jim Anderson QsoNet Doug Nelson **AAØAW** HF, VHF/UHF, Contesting, Packet, APRS, Morse Code, VE testing, Echolink, Allstar,

EmCom...

Membership E-mail Directory

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kc@mks@gmail.com Nelson, Doug **AAØAW**

this listing!

ij

name

Vour

include

Waller to

Steve

or

Contact Kim

aaØaw@chartermi.net **KAØGGG** Nelson, Glen mgnelsonØ1@gmail.com

Nelson, John **KBØSUW** jon275@g.com

Nordin. Al **WBØDBQ** anordin@aol.com

Olson, Lloyd Jr. KC9JTC kc9jtc@yahoo.com

Pearson, Wayne **WØKRH** meppsy@netzero.net

Pettit, Kathy **KCØYVM** kcØyvm@gmail.com

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Members, please check your name and email address for accuracy. If you are not on this list and want to be on the list, contact us with your info. If you need to make a change, please let us know at KEØNQS.mn@gmail.com KEØNQT@gmail.com

Co-Editors. Kim & Steve Waller **KEØNQS & KEØNQT**



SUNDAY NIGHT NETS

193Ø - CW - 28.125 MHz USB-CW 2ØØØ -USB 28.45Ø MHz

21ØØ - Southern St. Louis County **Emergency Services Net MONDAY NIGHT NETS**

2ØØØ- Northland WX Net - ARAC Repeater



CLUB EVENTS

TUESDAY NIGHT NETS

2ØØØ -Douglas Cty 145.49Ø MHz 2Ø3Ø -Central Carlton County **WEDNESDAY NIGHT NETS**

19ØØ -Lake County - LSAC1 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 21ØØ -BWAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ARAC BOARD MEETING - 18:30 House of Refuge DC Net 2000 CC Net 2030	2	3	4 Minnesota Mile	5
6 Cw 1930 Aaøaw usb 2000 Aaøaw es 2100 wønwo	7 wx 2000 ксøмкs	B DC Net 2000 CC Net 2030	9 Lake County ARES/RACES Meeting 1800 Lake County Net 1900 21ØØ -BWAR	ARAC Club Meeting 94 Repeater 7 pm	11 Superior Fall Trail	NorthShore Inline Marathon
13 CW 1930 NØPDG USB 2000 WØLWU ES 2100 NØVRM	DC ARES/ RACES Mtg 1900 DC EOC wx 2000 kcømks	DC Net 2000 CC Net 2030	St. Louis County ARES/ RACES Mtg 1630 Pike Lake EOC 21ØØ -BWAR	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
CW 1930 AAØAW USB 2000 K9KDK ES 2100 KØDSL	WX 2000 KCØMKS	DC Net 2000 CC Net 2030	Lake County Net 1900 21ØØ -BWAR	Carlton County ARES/RACES Meeting 1900 CC EOC		Club Breakfast @ The Chalet 0800-0900
27	28	29	30	31		
CW 1930 NØPDG USB 2000 WØDIO ES 2100 AAØME	wx 2000 ксøмкs	DC Net 2000 CC Net 2030	21ØØ - BWAR			

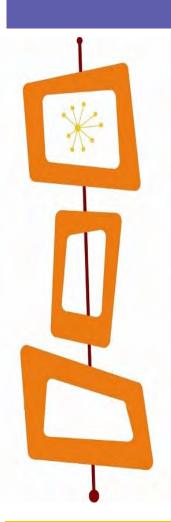
Get this newsletter faster via email!

Email Doug AAØAW at aa@aw@arrl.net

Next Meeting: Thursday,

September 10, 2020 - 7 pm On the 94 Repeater

ARAC Committee Chairs



Club License Trustee:

Ray Barnes KEØZN

Control Operators:

AAØAW - NØKXT - KCØNFB

Newsletter/Historian:

Kim KEØNQS & Steve KEØNQT Waller

Education Chair:

Bob Schulz KCØNFB

Hamfest Chair:

Bob Schulz KCØNFB

Chaplains:

Visiting Chaplain:

Denny Anderson WØDIO

Parliamentarian:

Grant Forsyth KCØWUP

Website:

Thomas Dorr KEØRHA

Membership:

Bruce Carlson KEØNIT

Property Chair:

Wulf Gar WU1FGR

Testing:

Doug Nelson AAØAW

Field Day:

Dennis Anderson WØDIO

Picnic Chair:

Scott Ahlgren, NØVYU

Repeater Chairs:

Randy Haglin NØBZZ Randy Wabik KAØJZV

Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com

National Contest Journal at www.ncjweb.com

QSO Party Note: State/Province/National QSO Parties are abbreviated with the 2 or 3 letter abbreviation for the state/province/national designation followed by QP for QSO Party:

Examples: Minnesota QSO Party is MNQP

British Columbia QSO Party = BCQP

QRZ web site at www.qrz.com

VHF Propagation site at www.aprs.mountainlake.k12.mn.us

Reminder: The Contest Corral monthly listing of contests can be found in each issue of QST. ARRL sponsored contests can be found in Contest Corral, highlighted, or on the ARRL's web site at arrl.org.



Grounded?, Continued from Page 1

"The earth distance from A to D is about 45 feet. The overall resistance of the complete loop runs between 10 to 15 ohms. I am recording this value periodically to notice any changes due to soil moisture or shifts in conductor resistance. Perhaps you should measure the resistance and effectiveness of your complete ground system!"

¹If you want to check the resistance of only the wire and cable portion of the complete loop: (1) Run a jumper between A and D. (2) Measure the loop resistance as usual at B and C with the GROUND switch open. (3) Subtract from this the resistance of the jumper wire. The answer provides a resistance test of the wire, cable and connections in the loop.

-Martin L. Cardwell, NB3T, Baltimore, Maryland

ARRL Lab Engineer Zachary Lau KH6CP was asked this question: What is an RF Ground? He says:

"In my opinion, an RF ground is something that presents a low impedance at all frequencies of interest on the desired ground surface. *All frequencies of interest* usually means just the transmission frequency and all spurii. *Spurii* usually include harmonics, but may include mixing products. The *ground surface* is the tricky part. *What* do you want to be at ground potential? Surely you don't expect your microphone to be at ground potential on all frequencies, do you? Think about it: A coiled microphone cord is a bigger radiator than many "rubber duck" antennas! With proper matching, you could probably make a better antenna out of the mic cord shield! In this case, low impedance means "small reactance and resistance." Some radio amateurs just look at the resistive part of the impedance and forget about the reactance, which often is huge!

"The size and shape of conductors are very important in evaluating a ground surface. Take, for example, a tall, thin aluminum structure that is grounded at one end. No matter how well you ground that one end, the structure still radiates and receives RF energy--that's why it's called an antenna. The shape that offers the lowest impedance is a sphere. (The Earth is a pretty good approximation of a sphere.) Size is also important--you wouldn't expect a metal-covered tennis ball to present a low impedance on 160 meters.

"Now that we have some idea what a ground should be, the question remains as to how to achieve it. It's pretty ridiculous to have to buy a large metal sphere the size of the Earth just to get a good ground (although it would work well!). The closest practical approximation--a short, thick wire connected to the Earth--works pretty well as long as the wire is much shorter than a *wavelength*. Notice that I said *wavelength*. If you expect your "good RF ground" to eliminate the second harmonic of a 10-meter signal (56 MHz), you need a wire much *shorter* than 8 feet long. (No, four feet is *not* much shorter, and would not work. In fact, a 4-foot "grounding wire" hooked up to the Earth might be a good *radiator* at 56 MHz. *Much shorter* means 2 feet or less in length-at 56 MHz, that is.)

"Following this line of reasoning, it may seem impossible to get a good ground at UHF. Actually, you can get a good ground at UHF by using a large metal plate, which is often called a ground plane. A large, flat surface also presents a low impedance at UHF. (Yes, a "flat Earth" would work just as well as a spherical one-at least in terms of grounding-if you were far enough from its edge.) But if you live in a second-floor apartment (as I do), how do you get a good HF ground? First, you should determine whether or not a ground is needed. (An ac ground should be considered a necessity for those operating equipment from commercial power lines.) Many antennas, however, such as dipoles and loops, operate just fine without an RF ground.

"As for TVI, many amateurs mistake TV fundamental overload as a grounding problem. (It is highly unlikely that TV sets will ever be designed to operate in a strong RF field.) First, install a high-pass filter on the TV set. If the transmitter is indeed radiating energy on a TV channel, try to improve the transmitter shielding, and try an absorptive harmonic filter (See the 1988 ARRL *Handbook*, *p* 40-9). Grounding will help if the chassis or mic cord of the rig is hot with RF. In this case, a quarter-wave, tuned counterpoise will provide grounding at one frequency (and its harmonics) on a small surface area. Grounding may or may not help situations involving RF feedback. It may be easier to dissipate and isolate the RF from various cords and wires using ferrite beads and toroids.

"Some people have asked me about measurement techniques for evaluating RF grounds. Well, if you connect a meter between two points that are at the same RF voltage, you may get a nonzero reading anyway! The meter leads can act as a loop antenna that can be expected to pick up RF fields. If you find an easy way around this problem, let me know about it."

-Zachary Lau, KH6CP, ARRL Lab Engineer

Our thanks to KH6CP for this in-depth description! You can read more info on grounding your equipment at arrl.com's Assorted Hints & Kinks page, as well as their many archive editions of QST Magazine. Share your "grounding your equipment" story with the Club for a future edition of the ARAC Relay. Email me at ke0ngs.mn@gmailll.com & please include photos of your project.



ATTENTION MEMBERS: URGENT CALL TO ACTION!

As you may have heard, the FCC has made a proposal to add service fees on Amateur Radio transactions. Please read the detail below and go to https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings to express your opposition to this Proposal during the official comment period.

FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees

08/28/2020

[UPDATED 2020-09-01 @1845 UTC]

Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed this week. Included in the FCC's fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees.

The FCC proposal is contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (*NPRM*) in MD Docket **20-270**, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "Ray Baum's Act."

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its *NPRM*, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

"[A]pplications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review," the FCC said in its *NPRM*. "For these automated processes — new/major modifications, renewal, and minor modifications — we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required."

The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for vanity call signs. "Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee," the FCC said.

The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes for amateur applications, and amateur radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. "For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge," the FCC said.

The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. "The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services," the FCC said.

The Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

Continued on Page 17

URGENT CALL TO ACTION, continued from p 16

Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the *NPRM* appears in the *Federal Register*. Interested parties may file comments by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open to accept comments, even though deadlines have not yet been set.

To comment, go to the FCC ECFS at https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings and do the following:



1. Go to the web address https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings and you will see the FCC "Submit a Filing" page first, per the ARRL. Do not enter anything on this page. Click on the "Express Comment" text.



2. You will now be at the FCC's official page to express your comment. Be sure "Express Comment" is underlined in amber.



3. In the "Proceeding" box enter the official docket number only, which is 20-270. A drop down menu will appear, then click 20-270.



4. The docket number should now turn to amber. Click the enter button on your keyboard to lock it in & go to the next line.



5. Enter your name & call sign, then click your enter button when it turns amber.



Enter your email address. This will stay a white background as shown, then move your curser each time to fill out the remaining address fields, which will remain as a white background.

7. Express your opinion in "Brief Comments" section and then click the tiny "Email Confirmation" box to be sure the FCC sends you a confirmation they've received your comments. Now click the Aqua box at the bottom to continue to the review screen. Double check that everything is right and submit your official comment.

We hope all of you take a few minutes to make your voice known to the FCC in this matter! Family members who are not hams can comment too. It is important that they understand that Amateur Radio operators perform a tremendously important role in public safety, including during emergencies, and should be free of additional financial encumbrances in executing this valuable voluntary public service.★

FOR SALE



Our thanks to the family of Bob Boyd KDØYLN, who have graciously donated Bob's ham shack equipment to the ARAC.

Bob became a silent key on May 31, 2020 & was serving the club as a 1st Year Board Member. NOPDG found sales for 3 items totaling \$970 thus far.

The Board has voted to earmark all proceeds from Bob's equipment toward replacement of our aging repeater.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE:

We are taking offers on non-priced items & will present offers for discussion on all items for consideration as appropriate. Contact N0PDG at lovoldm@gmail.com to make offer.

YAESU 767GX, built in power supply. Comes with matching speaker (no cables to hook up the speaker). This radio has an issue with all the lights coming on all the time. Sometimes they come on, sometimes not.

MAKE OFFER

KENWOOD TS-940S Receives Great! No mic, built in power supply, power button missing. Unit powers up by pushing the display button, likely had work done to it. Unknown on power output.

MAKE OFFER

ICOM 718 RADIO with mic and power cord. No manual. New are selling for \$625.

ASKING \$400

Morse code book with a cd for learning. Also oscillator, no keyer. ASKING \$20

ICOM IC-Z1A Handheld dual band. Comes with manual. Unknown if works as there is no power cord or charger. Worked fine when gifted to Bob by Randy Johnson AA0ME.

MAKE OFFER

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE ON PAGE 19!

FOR SALE



Larry Mattfield KEØPJW, of Bovey, Minnesota became a silent key July 25, 2020. NØVRM was contacted by Minton Miller NØNWO who is handling the sale of the radio equipment benefiting Larry's wife of 48 years, Betsy.

Please contact Minton Miller NØNWO at mdfamily@mchsi.com or 218-256-6708 with questions or offers on the following items:

Icom 7300 \$935.00 Icom sm30 desk mic \$119

Samlex sec1235m \$110.50

LDG AT 600 Prow II auto tuner for Icom \$ 314.50

Yaesu 857d hf/vhf/uhf \$680

Yaesu ft70d 2m ht \$148.75 Yaesu SBH-28 rapid charger \$25.50 Yaesu SBR-24Li batteries (2X) \$34 each or \$68 for both.

MFJ 941E manual antenna tuner \$119

Ameritron ALS 500m mobile 500 watt amp \$850 Ameritron ALS 500 rc mobile amp remote \$55.25 Ameritron SPS 75MV switching power supply \$246.5 0

vantage pro 2 weather station. \$990.25

diamond 2m/440 X50A bass antenna \$80.75

Solarcon A 99 cb antenna with GPK-1 Ground Plane \$123.25

Alpha Delta DELTA 4b coax switch. \$89.25

Contest Calendar - September 2020

+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 1
+ QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 1
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 1
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 2
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 2
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Sep 2
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 2
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 2
+ G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	2300Z, Sep 2 to 2300Z, Sep 4
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 3
- CWODS WITH CWY YES	1800Z-1900Z, Sep 3 (CW) and
	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 3 (SSB) and
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 3 (FM) and
	2100Z-2200Z, Sep 3 (Dig)
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 3
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, Sep 3
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 4
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 4
+ Russian RTTY WW Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 5
+ CWOps CW Open	0000Z-0359Z, Sep 5
+ All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 5 to 2400Z, Sep 6
	0600Z-0629Z, Sep 5 and
	0630Z-0659Z, Sep 5 and
+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0700Z-0729Z, Sep 5 and
	0730Z-0800Z, Sep 5
+ CWOps CW Open	1200Z-1559Z, Sep 5
+ AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 5
+ RSGB SSB Field Day	1300Z, Sep 5 to 1300Z, Sep 6
+ Colorado QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 5 to 0400Z, Sep 6
+ IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	1300Z, Sep 5 to 1259Z, Sep 6
+ IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest	1400Z, Sep 5 to 1400Z, Sep 6
+ CWOps CW Open	2000Z-2359Z, Sep 5
+ PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80m Sprint	2000Z, Sep 5 to 2000Z, Sep 6
+ WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone	1000Z-1400Z, Sep 6
+ Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 6 to 0300Z, Sep 7
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 7
+ MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 8
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 8
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 8
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 9
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 9
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Sep 9

Continued on Page 21

+ CWops Mini-CWT Test

1900Z-2000Z, Sep 9

Contest Calendar - September 2020, Continued from p.16

· CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 10
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 10
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 11
NCCC Sprint Ladder	02307-03007 Sen 11

+ ARRL EME Contest 0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13

+ FOC QSO Party 0000Z-2359Z, Sep 12

 + WAE DX Contest, SSB
 0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13

 + SARL Field Day Contest
 1000Z, Sep 12 to 1000Z, Sep 13

 + SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
 1200Z, Sep 12 to 2400Z, Sep 13

 1400Z, Sep 12 to 0200Z, Sep 13 and

+ Texas QSO Party 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 13 + Ohio State Parks on the Air 1400Z-2200Z, Sep 12

+ Russian Cup Digital Contest

1500Z-1859Z, Sep 12 and
0600Z-0959Z, Sep 13

+ Alabama QSO Party 1500Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 13

+ APPL September VH5 Contest 1800Z, Sep 13 to 0300Z, Sep 14

+ ARRL September VHF Contest 1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14
+ North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13

<u>+ Swiss HTC QRP Sprint</u> 1300Z-1900Z, Sep 13 <u>+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint</u> 0000Z-0200Z, Sep 14

+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest 0100Z-0159Z, Sep 15

 + RTTYOPS Weeksprint
 1700Z-1900Z, Sep 15

 + Phone Fray
 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 16

+ CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Sep 16 + CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 16 + RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW 1900Z-2030Z, Sep 16

+ NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Sep 17
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Sep 17
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Sep 17

+ BCC QSO Party 2000Z-2029Z, Sep 17 (CW) and 2000Z-2029Z, Sep 17 (SSB) and 2030Z-2059Z, Sep 17 (RTTY)

+ NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Sep 18 + NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 18

+ AGB NEMIGA Contest 2100Z-2400Z, Sep 18
+ Collegiate QSO Party 0000Z, Sep 19 to 2359Z, Sep 20

+ ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest 0600 local, Sep 19 to 2400 local, Sep 20

+ SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest 1200Z, Sep 19 to 0800Z, Sep 20

+ Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW

+ All Africa International DX Contest

1200Z, Sep 19 to 1200Z, Sep 20

+ SRT HF Contest SSB 1300Z, Sep 19 to 1300Z, Sep 20 + lowa QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 19 to 0200Z, Sep 20

+ QRP Afield 1500Z-2100Z, Sep 19
+ Wisconsin Parks on the Air 1600Z-2300Z, Sep 19

<u>+ New Jersey QSO Party</u> 1600Z, Sep 19 to 0359Z, Sep 20

Contest Calendar - September 2020, Continued from p.17

+ New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0400Z, Sep 20 and 1600Z-2200Z, Sep 20
+ Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0700Z, Sep 20 and
	1600Z-2400Z, Sep 20
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1800Z-1959Z, Sep 19
+ North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 20
+ BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2059Z, Sep 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Sep 20 to 0100Z, Sep 21
+ 144 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 21
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 22
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 23
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 23
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 23
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 23
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 24
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 24
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 24
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 25
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 25
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27
+ Maine QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 26 to 1200Z, Sep 27
+ AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Sep 26 (144) and
	1700Z-1800Z, Sep 26 (432)
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 28
+ QCX Challenge	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 28
+ RSGB FT4 Contest Series	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 28
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 29
+ QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 29
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 29
+ 222 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 29
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 30
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 30
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 30

The ARAC RELAY



+ UKEICC 80m Contest

Published monthly and distributed free to members, "The RELAY" is the official publication of the Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club, Inc. Members are encouraged to submit articles, opinions, and classifieds. Your submission will be placed as soon as possible providing it does not conflict with the bylaws of the Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club, Inc. The editors reserve the right to omit any submission that is not a required item. If a submission is questionable, it will be presented to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled board meeting for



2000Z-2100Z, Sep 30