



ARRL Midwest Division Newsletter

June 2011



The 2011 ARRL Midwest Division Convention Cedar Rapids, Iowa — Aug. 5-7, 2011

Plans for the ARRL Midwest Division Convention are rapidly coming together for a “block buster event”. The convention program will feature presentations and forums on a wide range of topics from noted experts. The keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet will be ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. This will be a unique opportunity to meet Kay on her first ever visit to Iowa. Additional speakers and their topics on the Saturday convention program include:

“Class-E Power Amplifiers for QRP to QRO” by David Cripe, NMØS, Rockwell Collins Advanced Technology Engineer

Dave provides an introduction to the Class-E power amplifier, and its applicability to the radio amateur. The Class-E power amplifier is an RF switching amplifier capable of near 100% DC-to-RF conversion efficiency. This presentation covers theory of operation, a practical cookbook approach to design, and comparison with conventional Class-B amplifiers.

“The ARRL Lab” by Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL HQ Laboratory Manager

Ed will explain all of the fun things the HQ staff gets to do in the ARRL Lab. It ranges from Product Review testing to helping with ARRL's web page to a description of the Lab staff's work with industry and the ARRL Washington DC offices. This is a 25-year HQ veteran insider view of the Lab and ARRL HQ. Ed also promises to tell a few tales that he says you “won't” read about in the pages of QST! After the presentation, Ed will answer any questions you have about the Lab, HQ or ARRL. He calls this part of his presentation “Stump the Speaker,” and says you'll have to show up to find out what that means!

“Elecraft Kit Building” by Craig Rairdin, NZØR

Craig will talk about his experience building the entire line of Elecraft transceivers: The ultra portable KX1 and K1 QRP transceivers and the 100W versions of the K2 and K3 transceivers. The experience building each of these radios is a little different. In addition to showing lots of pictures and talking about the build process, Craig will bring the finished radios to the meeting and open them up for you to look at.

“DX Contest Operation” by Rick Heinrich, NØYY

Rick participates in the PJ2T effort in the big DX contests from Curacao. This is a huge multi-multi operation that takes a lot of coordination. Rick will talk about what it's like to operate from the other end of the pileup.

“T32CXX Christmas Island DX-pedition” by Tom Vinson, NYØV

Tom Vinson and Rod Blocksome, KØDAS, operated from Christmas Island in Kiribati using T32CXX during the 2008 CQWW contest. By comparison to PJ2T, they ran a very modest operation limited by weight restrictions on the small plane that flew 5 hours across the Pacific from KH6. Tom will relate their adventures in this remote part of the Pacific.

“iHAB - Iowa High Altitude Balloon” by Marshall Dias, WØOTM

The purpose of the iHAB (Iowa High Altitude Balloon) Project is to design and build a vehicle to fly into Near Space – the region of Earth's atmosphere 20 to 100 km above sea level, encompassing the stratosphere, mesosphere, and thermosphere. Currently, craft that fly in near space (nearcraft) are generally high altitude balloons, blimps (non-rigid airships) and sounding rockets.



“ISU HAB project” by Matthew E. Nelson, KBØMGQ

Iowa State University uses amateur radio during High Altitude Balloon (HAB) projects and other projects such as their Cubesat project. The presentation focuses on the ISU research projects that have used amateur radio and student experiences with amateur radio.

“Antennas for DX’ing” by Lawrence Stoskopf, NØUU

Everyone in the Midwest Division knows that Salina, KS is a hot bed of DXer's. Lawrence Stoskopf, NØUU, likes to DX and experiment with equipment and antennas during DX contests from a local high spot near Salina. He has HFTA models of his antennas and the terrain which makes for some strange looking antenna installations such as HF Yagis at low heights and pointed downhill to get the right takeoff angles. This will be a wide-ranging presentation about having antenna fun from an unusual location.

“Youth Forum” by Joey Freeland, KDØHFX

Joey is a great young man who has spoken at the Dayton Hamvention youth forums. He will talk about his experiences and in getting young people involved in amateur radio. There is also a local Venture Crew who has their own UHF repeater and hold regular nets and emergency preparedness training. The Youth Forum will include:

“Taking it to the Limit” by Dave Blankenship, Venture Crew Advisor

Listen to local teenagers describe how they have leveraged radio skills learned in their club (WØVCK) into their educational programs and world travels. Their activities include episodes of wilderness medicine practiced in both domestic and foreign destinations and participation in emergency prep scenarios.

“Changing modes . . . the evolution of amateur HF voice communication in the post-WW II years” by Joe Veras, K9OCO, Author of “50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation.

Joe is a retired professional photographer who set out on a 15-year quest to photograph every piece of American made ham gear and accessories. In his quest he covered 450,000 miles which wore out two Mercedes cars but resulted in the ultimate “coffee table book” on Amateur Radio.

“ARRL Forum” by Cliff Ahrens, KØCA, ARRL Midwest Division Director, Kay Craigie, N3KM, ARRL President, and Rod Blocksom KØDAS, Midwest Division Vice Director

The forum features a discussion of the latest ARRL news and happenings hosted by our Midwest Division Director Cliff Ahrens KØCA. Other ARRL officials, including Kay Craigie, N3KN, ARRL President, and Rod Blocksom, KØDAS, Midwest Division Vice Director, will be attending to answer your questions and listen to your concerns.

“The Top Ten Reasons PropMan™ was Created” by Dan Roesler, WDØHOJ, Retired Rockwell Collins Propagation Engineer

PropMan™ originated with the Trans-Auroral HF Experiment (TAHFE) between Barrow, Alaska and Cedar Rapids using SELSCAN™, the ALQA, and 1KW HF-8010/8014's in the lab and HF-8070 in NARL. PropMan™ was our version of Advanced Prophet created by Bob Rose out of the San Diego Navy Group. Our original intention was to develop an HF propagation tool for the soldier in the field during the cold war.

There are a few more presentations planned but not confirmed at press time. Check out the Convention web site for the latest information.

<http://convention2011.cvarc.rf.org/index.html>

Now is the time to make your reservations for the ARRL Midwest Division Convention and Summerfest! See you in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 5-7, 2011.



"What an Unbelievable Response"

Missouri SEC [Ken Baremore, WØKRB](#), sent the following open letter to volunteers involved in the Joplin, Missouri tornado disaster:

"I want to thank all who volunteered and came to Joplin to help with communications as well as those who are still contacting me to see if additional help is needed. Due to the ending of the search and recovery mode and going to the debris and potential body part removal functions, the decision was made that effective at the end of shift today (Monday, May 30, 2011) all ham communications from the EOCs to the field operations are being stood down. We do have some ARES® operators that are scheduled and will continue to work with [SATERN](#) through the rest of this week.

"Ham communications between Springfield and Joplin started Sunday night between Freeman Hospital in Joplin and some of the hospitals in Springfield as that was the only means of communication. The links were shut down Monday morning when their needs were met. Likewise, the radio station at the Springfield Red Cross was started Sunday evening to allow communications between the Springfield and Joplin offices and to the shelter that was set up in Joplin. That communication link stayed open until Tuesday as it was the only reliable method of communications.

"I asked Cecil Higgins, ACØHA, Assistant DEC for District D, to respond to Joplin on Tuesday morning and act as "Ham in Charge" during the disaster and help to set up additional communication links as required. Thomas Zeller, KBØORZ, EC for Jasper County, and LaVerne Wilson, NQØB, EC for Newton County, were already in place, with members of their respective ARES® groups trying to support the EOCs and Red Cross, but relief was needed.

"Our ham operators expended almost 2000 hours during this week. What an unbelievable response. I know that many of you were scrambling to find the necessary equipment to allow you to come help this week. It is a great feeling for me to know that I am part of an organization with people willing to give up vacation or personal time to help out in a time of need. I hope we don't have another need anytime soon but it is nice to know that we have hams and ARES® members ready to serve. Again, I can't thank you all enough." -- 73, Kenneth Baremore, WØKRB, Missouri Section Emergency Coordinator [See also [Missouri ARES®](#).]



Missouri National Guard Soldiers with the 117th Engineer Team work search and rescue missions in Joplin, Mo., just hours after a deadly tornado passed through. (Photo provided by Ann Keyes/Missouri National Guard)



Joplin Lessons Learned, by KCØBS

- 1) Get affiliated with a group who deploys regularly to disaster. Whether that's the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Southern Baptists, LDS, or any other group...your best chance to help on the ground EARLY when you can be most effective is with one of these groups.
- 2) Get signage: Although ID's are required by Salvation Army to be deployed, when it comes to getting through roadblocks in order to help the affected area, nothing is better than magnetic ARES/SATERN/RACES signs and antennas.
- 3) Practice as you will play: I was constantly struck by the fact the SATERN operation in Joplin didn't feel like an emergency. It felt like a public service event. We did all the same things as we do for any marathon or bike ride. In fact, one volunteer said "I've never been on a disaster assignment before, all I have done is the MS1-50 for the last 5 years" I said, "You will do great." And she did, because the efforts on the ground are EXACTLY the same. SOOOO....be SURE to participate in as many public service events as you can...every year...to stay polished for times of disaster.
- 4) Expect Change: Lots of folks got mad at me, and leaders of SATERN because we kept changing our story. Unfortunately, we weren't the ones changing it! As the situation on the ground progresses, needs change, and sometimes Policies MUST be adhered to...other times, policies go out the door when reality strikes. Getting this all organized when you have a multiplicity of groups all with their own policies is a maddening effort, and i realize how frustrating it was to everyone, including me! Be patient with us, remind us you are there and ready to help, if we don't call on you don't be offended, but do remind us you are there occasionally as needs or requirements may change by the hour or minute!
- 5) Help wherever needed: You might be setting up a comm trailer, shadowing a PIO, loading water on a truck or helping a repeater owner secure their antenna by carrying 80 lb sacks of concrete up a ladder (ask me about that one!). But wherever there is a need, step in and be first to volunteer. You will be sought out for every event & disaster after that. You will become invaluable.
- 6) Take a vacation and serve: I love everything about ham radio, teaching classes, bringing youth into the hobby & elmering them, building repeaters, playing with APRS, speaking to groups, leading organizations, Contesting, Chasing DX, climbing towers...but nothing has EVER made me feel as good about my hobby or myself as my work in Joplin with the Salvation Army. In the days after coming back from Joplin, I was overcome with emotion on more than one occasion, albeit not because of the loss caused by Mother Nature, but rather because of the goodness of Human Nature. I had SO many people ask what they could do to help, and then when I asked them to do more than they had offered, they redoubled their effort & did even more than I asked. It makes me so proud to be a ham, and to know so many of you, who give and serve without any hesitation or thought of glory. I said THANK YOU more times in 3 days in Joplin that I did in the prior 3 years. And I will gladly say it again.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE!"

Brian L Short, PMP--KCØBS, Johnson County, KS ARES EC



Nebraska Governor Proclaims Amateur Radio Week

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman presented a Proclamation declaring the week of June 19-25, 2011 Amateur Radio Week to Nebraska Section Manager Art Zygielbaum WØAIZ, and Bob Mitchell, WBØRJJ, Section Legislative Liaison on June 7th at the State Capitol. Assistant Section Manager Reynolds Davis, KØGND, also attended the event.

The Governor's proclamation recognized the services Amateur Radio participants provide to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, the emergency response organizations in the counties and municipalities of Nebraska, and the National Weather Service's Skywarn program.

Section Manager Art thanked the Governor on behalf of the 4,000 Nebraska hams for recognizing the service Radio Amateurs provide to our communities.



Left to Right: Nebraska Section Manager Art Zygielbaum WØAIZ, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman, and Bob Mitchell WBØRJJ, Section Legislative Liaison.

KCDXC Keeps Tradition Alive At Dayton! — By ABØX

For over 30 years, the KCDXC Hospitality Suite has been the place to be on Saturday night during the Dayton Hamvention. Of course, the popularity of our famous CW Pile Up Contest has a lot to do with this. The cold drinks and friendly environment of our suite only amplifies this feeling as several hundred Dxers/contesters drop by to partake in the annual challenge. Many just come to watch the horse race for top CW honors and just as many come to visit and see old friends. NØRB mans the bar and shakes hands with all comers. KØVBU and KØVXU operate the CW Test with skilled proficiency.

The KCDXC used new software, created by NO5W, Chuck, this year to score the Pile Up Test. It was an outstanding improvement and offers real time screen displays of the test takers in the Test room thru a computer link to the main room of the suite. The crowd stood almost frozen at times in front of the screen, especially when a well known CW jock was in the room taking the test. The Pile Up Test includes 100 call signs sent in a period of about 5 minutes with varying speeds and times. VE3DZ was the top scorer this year and won the Begali Key. He was followed by N2NT, then K5ZD, N2NC and K4BAI. All received nice prizes from the KCDXC. NØAG, KCDXC President, awarded the prizes at the end of the competition just after midnight.



If you plan on attending the Dayton Hamvention in the future, make sure you visit the KCDXC Hospitality Suite at the Crowne Plaza. It is an exciting and unique experience!



Joplin Tornado Relief

The Midwest is no stranger to bad weather. But the Spring of 2011 has been particularly devastating, with severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, flooding, and range fires throughout much of the Midwest, including all four states in our ARRL Midwest Division – Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. Many have suffered loss of lives, injury, and damage to home and businesses. None has been harder hit than Joplin, Missouri, in which 141 people died, countless others were injured, and much of the town was totally destroyed by an EF5 tornado.

The Joplin Amateur Radio Club and Radio Amateurs from the Southwest Missouri area as well as throughout the Midwest answered the call for volunteers to help with emergency communications and relief operations. Hams assisted ARES, SATERN, Red Cross, local, state, and Federal emergency management teams, doctors and emergency medical providers, and other relief agencies, and provided countless hours and days helping this stricken community. A long and difficult road to recovery lies ahead, but the brave citizens of the Joplin area have already begun the task of restoring and rebuilding lives and looking to the future.

The Joplin Amateur Radio Club says there are at least eleven local ham radio operators who have lost equipment or antennas, and some have lost their homes. The Joplin ARC is establishing an account to accept donations for the benefit of local hams who have suffered personal losses as a result of the Joplin tornado. Anyone interested in sending contributions or gifts of equipment to the club to aid the tornado victims should mark it "Tornado Relief." Contributions will be used by the club as needed to help the storm victims and their families.

Monetary donations should be sent to Joplin ARC, PO BOX 2983, Joplin MO 64803-2983. Donations of equipment may be shipped to the club in care of Jim Scott WBØIYC's office at the following address: Joplin ARC, c/o Scott Electronic Systems, 310 S. Wall Ave. Joplin, MO 64801. Anyone having questions about donations may contact the club Treasurer, Jim Johannes NØZSQ jimjohannes@sbcglobal.net. The Joplin Amateur Radio Club <http://www.joplin-arc.org> is a not for profit corporation, tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(4).

Contributions or gifts to the Joplin Amateur Radio Club are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.

ARRL Midwest Division Club Competition

Reminder - It's not too late to enter the Midwest Division Club Competition. Several division clubs have told us they are actively working on activities that count toward the club score. Since there is a "leveling factor" based on the size of the club, small clubs have a good chance of competing against large clubs for the \$150 ARRL gift certificate prizes. Beyond the prize winners, Amateur Radio will gain new folks and other ARRL Divisions may follow the Midwest's lead in this endeavor. Please Check <http://www.arrlmidwest.org/clubcompetition.html> for complete details and rules.



Midwest Division QSO Parties

Here's a listing of Midwest Division QSO Parties. Missouri and Nebraska QSO parties have already been run for this year. Let's support Kansas and Iowa and see how many counties we can work!

- **Kansas QSO Party**, Kansas Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary of Statehood QSO Party, sponsored by Boeing Employees' ARS (BEARS), Wichita. August 27-28, 2011.
<http://www.ksqsoparty.org/sponsors/>
- **Iowa QSO Party**, sponsored by Ottumwa ARC. Saturday, October 15, 2011.
<http://iaqso.wa0dx.org/>

Midwest Division Special Events

07/17/2011 | Marshal Ensor Park and Museum Event

Jul 17, 1500Z-2100Z, W9BSP, Olathe, KS. Santa Fe Trail Amateur Radio Club. SSB 14.260 7.240 CW 14.050 21.050 7.050. QSL. Del Sawyer, 1259 Frontier Ln, Olathe, KS 66062.

08/05/2011 | Hooverfest

Aug 5-Aug 8, 1400Z-2300Z, K0H, Coralville, IA. Iowa City Amateur Radio Club (W0JV). 14.260 14.070 21.300 21.070. QSL. Iowa City Amateur Radio Club / K0H, PO Box 4, Iowa City, IA 52244. Expect to be on the air via Phone, PSK and some CW. www.icarc.org.

08/11/2011 | Iowa State Fair

Aug 11-Aug 21, 1100Z-0300Z, W0ISF, Des Moines, IA. Madison County DX Club. 14.250 7.250 146.520. QSL. Mark Mease, 2989 Truro Rd, Truro, IA 50257. Will operate at various times throughout the fair. 20,40 and whatever bands are open. Also simplex on grounds 146.520. mmease@netins.net.

08/20/2011 | Oelwein Railroad Days, Celebration of Chicago Great Western Railroad

Aug 20, 1500Z-2100Z, KC0QNI, Oelwein, IA. Rural Iowa Amateur Radio Club. 7.285 7.240 3.980 147.345. QSL. Jerry Clark, 18 10th Ave NW, Oelwein, IA 50662.
www.ruraliowaares.com

08/28/2011 | Hollenberg Pony Express Station Festival

Aug 28, 1400Z-2100Z, K0ASA, Hanover, KS. Crown Amateur Radio Association. 18.085 14.245 14.045 7.045. Certificate & QSL. Crown Amateur Radio Association, 11551 W 176th Ter, Olathe, KS 66062. www.arrlmidwest.org/ponyexpress.html

For updated Special events listings, check out:

<http://www.arrl.org/special-events>.



Midwest Division ARRL Hamfests, Conventions & Events

07/16/2011 | Warrensburg Area Hamfest 2011

Location: Warrensburg, MO

Sponsor: Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club (WAARCI)

Website: <http://www.waarci.org/>

07/17/2011 | Zero-Beaters Annual Hamfest

Location: Washington, MO

Sponsor: Zero-Beaters Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.WA0FYA.org>

07/23/2011 | W0DXCC Convention

Location: Leavenworth, KS

Sponsor: Kansas City DX Club, Missouri DX/Contest Club, & Lebanon ARC

Website: <http://www.kcdxclub.com>

07/30/2011 | Pioneer ARC's 14th Annual Flea Market

Location: North Bend, NE

Sponsor: Pioneer Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.k0ifn.com>

08/05-07/2011 | Midwest Division Convention

Location: Cedar Rapids, IA

Sponsor: Collins ARC & Cedar Valley ARC

Website: <http://convention2011.cvarc.rf.org>

08/13/2011 | Heartland Hams Hamfest

Location: Glenwood, IA

Sponsor: Heartland Hams

Website: <http://heartlandhams.org>

08/14/2011 | St. Charles ARC Hamfest

Location: O'Fallon, MO

Sponsor: St. Charles Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.wb0hsi.org>

08/21/2011 | Kansas State Convention

Location: Salina, KS

Sponsor: Central Kansas ARC

Website: <http://www.centalksarc.com>

08/26/2011 | 22nd Annual Joplin Hamfest

Location: Joplin, MO

Sponsor: Joplin Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.joplin-arc.org>

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Midwest Division ARRL Hamfests, Conventions & Events (cont'd)

09/17/2011 | Pony Express Hamfest

Location: Saint Joseph, MO
Sponsor: Saint Joseph & Plattsburg ARCs
Website: <http://ponyexpresshamfest.webs.com/>

09/18/2011 | Boyer Valley ARC Flea Market

Location: Mondamin, IA
Sponsor: Boyer Valley ARC
Website: <http://www.angelfire.com/la2/fbcchurch/bvrctest.html>

10/01/2011 | Wichita Area Hamfest

Location: Wichita, KS
Sponsor: Valley Center ARC
Website: <http://vcarc.org>

10/02/2011 | Southeast Iowa Hamfest

Location: West Liberty, IA
Sponsor: Muscatine ARC & Washington Area ARC
Website: <http://www.kc0aqs.org/hamfest.html>

10/21/2011 | Iowa State Convention (Hamboree 2011)

Location: Sergeant Bluff, IA
Sponsor: 3900 Club & Siouxland Amateur Radio Association
Website: <http://www.3900club.com>

10/29/2011 | 20th Halloween Hamfest

Location: Kirkwood, MO
Sponsor: St. Louis ARC
Website: <http://www.halloweenhamfest.org>

10/29/2011 | Ensor Museum Auction Tailgate & Special Event

Location: Olathe, KS
Sponsor: Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club & JOCO ARES
Website: <http://www.w0erh.org>

11/06/2011 | Iowa Section Convention

Location: Davenport, IA
Sponsor: Davenport Radio Amateur Club
Website: <http://www.arcsupport.com/drac/hamfest.html>

01/21/2012 | North KC Hamfest (non-ARRL Hamfest)

Location: Kansas City, MO
Sponsor: Northland Emergency Response
Website: <http://www.northkchamfest.com>

01/28/2012 | Winterfest 2012

Location: Collinsville, IL
Sponsor: The St. Louis & Suburban Radio Club, Inc.
Website: <http://slsrc.org>

For updated Hamfests and Conventions Calendar, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

Midwest Division Leadership



Director: Cliff Ahrens KØCA
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Vice Director: Rod Blocksome KØDAS
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Iowa Section Manager: Tom Brehmer NØLOH

Kansas Section Manager: Ron Cowan KBØDTI

Missouri Section Manager: Dale Bagley KØKY

Nebraska Section Manager: Art Zygielbaum KØAIZ

DX Advisory Committee: Bill Morgan KØDEQ (MO)

Emergency Communications Advisory Committee: Reynolds Davis KØGND (NE)

Contest Advisory Committee: Jim Cochran KØRH (KS)

VHF-UHF Advisory Committee: Mike King KMØT (IA)

Division Legislative Action Chair: Mike Edwards WB9M (MO)

Legislative Action Coordinators: Nick Critelli KØPCG (IA); Bruce Frahm KØBJ (KS & NE); Mike Edwards WB9M (MO).

Assistant Directors (Missouri): Ken Enenbach KCØWX, Paul Haefner KØJPL, Tom Hammond NØSS, Ron Lowrance K4SX, Fred Miller KBØWIL, Ron Ochu KOØZ, Dave Prop- per K2DP, Barbara Rich KGØUT, John Rogers WØWC, Scott Schultz NØIU, Roger Volk KØGOB, Bill Wheeler KØDEW, and Eric Zust WØTT.

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Assistant Directors (Iowa): Don Boyvey AKØBG, Al Culbert KØAL, Roxian Miller KCØLLB, Dennis O'Brien KAØDOS, C.W. Pantel KØIIR, Jim Spencer WØSR, and Jim Lasley NØJL.

Assistant Directors (Nebraska): Frank Cahoy KØBLT, Stan Coleman NØYXV, Reynolds Davis KØGND, Bill Duffy KAØVXK, Joe Eisenberg KØNEB, Allen Harpham KBØASQ, Todd LeMense KKØDX, and Mike Nickolaus NFØN.

Midwest Division Webmaster: Steve Schmitz WØSJS

Midwest Division News and Photos Wanted!

If you have news and photos about events or activities from the Midwest Division, email them to Cliff KØCA at k0ca@arrl.org. We will try to include as many as possible in upcoming editions of the Midwest Division News. Thanks and 73, Cliff KØCA