



April 2010 Newsletter

Vol. 18 Issue 4

NEXT MEETING

Saturday April 10th at 9:00am
at Crane Community Chapel

The Presidents Soap Box

Hello

With the start of spring and the Sky Warn training session still fresh in our minds It might be a good time to look what's in the bags we have ready to grab when the call for spotters goes out.

I did a quick search on the internet and came up with the following, I need a bigger car!

There are a lot of different ideas out there on what you should have with you, Remember you may be out in your car for a few hours to a full day.

This is what I came up with by going through some of the lists, feel free to add or remove items for your bag.

Personal items

- 1 or 2 complete change of cloths
- Hooded sweat shirt or light jacket
- Any personal medications
- First aid kit
- Hand towel to wipe your face off
- Hat
- Flash light (Battery or shaker type)
- Batteries for Flashlight
- Safety Vest
- Pencil/pen and paper
- Rain gear
- Suntan lotion
- Bug spray
- Cell phone & charger
- ID and a copy of Ham license

Radio

Hand Held radio

Spare battery

Battery shell that use AA battery (you can buy AA battery everywhere)

Speaker mic or ear mic

120v charger

12v charger or battery eliminator

List of local repeaters

List of call signs and phone numbers of club members

Car

Mobile radio

Road map or GPS

Food, snacks (some that can be stored in the trunk that won't melt)

Water bottles

Pillow and light blanket

Small tool kit

Cash (able to buy 1 tank of fuel)

After you have rounded up the items from your house and local store decide how you are going to carry them, backpack, duffel bag or a 5 gallon bucket.

Store the bag in a location where you can grab it on the way out to the car, if you store it in the trunk you may want to check on it every few weeks. The high temp can weekend batteries, spoil food items.

Last June, when the storm hit Austin I was able to grab the bag and was on the road in a few minutes. Minus a few items that I removed from the bag and never replace.

Now I place the water bottles in the freezer and grab them on the way out this way I can have a cold drink of water.

Take a few minutes and look over what you have and run through you mind "If I was going to do?" Use Albert Lea repeater; look at down trees at night and so on

"What will I need?" Freq of local repeaters, Flash light and more stuff to pack

I little bit of preplanning will pay off in the long run

Tom KC0VII

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND

Balance 02/27/10	\$1,140.75
Dues Paid	+105.00
Deposit	+00.00
Expenses	-132.23
Balance 04/03/10	\$1,008.52

Expensed were for the cookies and rental of Crane Chapel for the SKYWARN class.

MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance 02/27/10	\$4,189.43
Dues Paid	+000.00
Deposit	+00.00
Donations & Interest	+00.00
Expenses	-000.00
Withdrawal	-00.00
Balance 04/03/10	\$4,189.43

Submitted by KB0SVG Mary Nystrom / AAARC Treasurer

Minutes to the February Meeting

Hayward Mike, KC0YQU, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7 pm, March 6, 2010, held at the Red Cross Building. Attendees signing-in were:

John KB0SPM and Mary Nystrom KB0SVG, John Fair N0SMW, Jim Budd KC0EQY, Bob K0IHV and Jan W0LUX Czpaiewski, Al Bush N0RZO, Denny Herold KD0CSY, Dean Johnson KA0RMP, Vince Lynch KC0NPG, Carl Rayman WA0RLY, and visitors Steve Bonine KB9X and Dan Nordman AC0DA.

Vince KC0NPG spoke briefly about his involvement with checking into the MARS HF net and the 2-meter net. He encouraged everyone to take a close look at joining this network of skilled operators; he will prepare information to be displayed at the County Fair. Plan on attending the Fair during the first part of August - the AARC will have a booth and operating station.

The Big Island Rendezvous will find space to host an Albert Lea sponsored HF/UHF radio station this coming October 22. There will be a need for operators to help man this 24-hour effort.. More information will be available at a later date.

The APRS-FI kit assembly project died for lack of interest.

Digi-peaters located in Osage, Mason City and Glenville were topics of interest that included discussion for possible new digi's located in Clarks Grove and Austin. This is open for further discussion.

VP Mike presented information about Volunteer Organization Activities Communities also known as SE Minn VOAC. We all win when our radio group volunteers in assisting our communities.

John Fair received kudos for upgrading his amateur radio license to General Class, new callsign N0SMW. Atta boy! John.

New Biz: Plan for a Fox Hunt in May. We need location, date, and invite players.

New T-shirts with club logo was presented. Popular consensus is: Color: dark blue with lettering front and back; tentative price is \$8 each. Need to decide quantity and sizes.

Next meeting will be April 10 at 9 am at the Red Cross Building.

Jan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm, peace and harmony prevailing.

Submitted by Dean / KA0RMP / Secretary

HF Bands Report

During the recent CQ World Wide CW contest, the HF bands were alive with the sound of dits and dahs. Many were the stations with mighty signals, and deep down in the pile-ups were the QRP's (low power), but all shared in their desire to work with digital signals, the original signal system known as CW (continuous wave) and International Morse Code. I spent that Saturday positioned in front of my Kenwood TS 430 and Bencher keyer pushing my cw signal with 100 watts of power into a 40/80 meter dipole.

I made contacts with stations throughout Europe, Eastern Russia, Japan, Turkmenistan, Pacific Islands, Caribbean Islands and South America. One does not need to run "heat" to be heard, just do a good job of zero-beating and have patience. The combination of those to items bodes well for gaining personal satisfaction and having fun. I urge you to join the contest game, be it CW or SSB, and become another voice for Mower county, USA.

Submitted by Dean Johnson, KA0RMP

Skywarn Training Session 2010

The 2010 Skywarn Training Session turned out to be a first class event. Todd Shea from the La Crosse National Weather Service was the instructor. The event was held on March 23 at the Crane Community Chapel. There were 137 people in attendance. Checking the Sign Up Sheets from the past 5 training sessions, I have the following information for you:

2003 --- 129 attendees --- at the Senior Center
2005 --- 101 attendees --- at the Senior Center
2006 --- 64 attendees --- at the Senior Center
2008 --- 93 attendees --- at Crane Community Chapel
2010 --- 137 attendees --- at Crane Community Chapel

Submitted by John / KB0SPM

AARC Recommended Nets

Sunday Night – Austin 146.730 FM Net - 7:00pm CDT
Sunday Night – Owatonna 145.490 FM Net - 7:30pm CDT
Sunday Night – Albert Lea 146.880 FM Net - 8:00pm CDT
Sunday Night – Austin 50.400 AM Rag Chew Net - 8:30pm CDT
Sunday Night – Northern Lights 144.260 USB Net – 9pm CDT
Monday Night – North Iowa Net 147.315 FM Net – 6:30pm CDT
Tuesday Night – Austin 28.410 USB Rag Chew Net - 7:00pm CDT

AARC Club Officers & Volunteers for 2010

President --- Tom Crowley KC0VII
Vice President --- Mike Hansen KC0YQU
Secretary --- Dean Johnson KA0RMP
Treasurer --- Mary Nystrom KB0SVG (7 year hold over)
Web Master --- Vince Lynch KC0NPG (Volunteer Position)
Newsletter Editor --- John Nystrom KB0SPM (Volunteer Position)