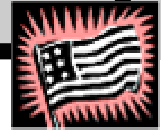


# PARC News

March, 2007

Volume 17, Issue 3



Larry Martens KØSW

## Antennas & Stuff



We were monitoring the 80 meter CW band the other night and happened to come across a really beautiful signal on 3505KHz sending perfect code with a “bug”. He signed as George AA7JV in Florida.

A “bug” is a mechanical semi-automatic telegraph key that makes dits with a spring and weights and you make the dahs yourself with a paddle type lever.

George was working a run of stations in Europe and just having a ball. K5ZG broke in and asked one of the DX stations to move frequency for a QSO and George stood by till they made their sked, then he resumed his rag chewing with the DX stations.

Hearing this very excellent and polite operator set off some thoughts of nostalgia and since our commander has asked for some comments about the zero call district, I started thinking about some Øs that made an impression on me 44 years ago.

In the fall of 1963, I managed to pass the Novice exam in the radio room at the old Navy Reserve station at Midland College. The elmer and mentor for learning the code was Tom Shires, WØFXH, who had been a Navy radio operator in World War II. An ex-coast guard radio operator in the class was Bob Carlson, WAØHBS (High Button Shoes) who helped us learn the code and how to tie knots. After an anxious 6-week wait for WNØHAL license to come in the mail, I met Tom Bracket, KØJFN, and he helped me put up an antenna and get on the air. My code speed increased rapidly and I found that I could not send fast enough on a straight key anymore. Then I met Harry Snyder, WØNVE, and he demonstrated a Vibroplex Lightning bug that he had used in the Merchant Marines during WWII. It just so happened that KØJFN had a Vibroplex Original bug that he was not using, since he learned the electronic key. A deal was made that I could buy his

bug, if I promised to sell it back to him when I was through with it.

I used that old Vibroplex key from 1964 until around 1980. At one of the PARC Field Days, my bug got stepped on and broke the paddles, so Tom sat and whittled out a new paddle from a piece of clear Plexiglas and it is still on that key today.

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### Special points of interest:

- CLUB MEETING:
- March 23, 2007
- Friday
- Supper at 6:30
- Meeting at 7:30
- Think Programs!!!



**Check into the PARC Net Every**

**Wednesday at 7 p.m. on the**

**146.67 repeater!**

## Pioneer Amateur Radio Club Minutes February 2007

The Pioneer Amateur Radio Club gathered for dinner at 630 PM on Friday, February 23, 2007, at Hero's/Gambino's in Fremont, Nebraska.

Meeting called to order at 730 PM by President Steve Benke, KF0MS. 16 people present, who introduced themselves.

Minutes for January 2007 meeting were approved as printed in the February 2007 PARC News.

Treasurer's report approved as printed in February 2007 PARC News. John Beranek, KC0KKE made a motion to pay the bills. Motion, seconded by Mel Cunningham, K0VLA, was approved.

**...Correspondence...** Nothing received.

**...Committee Reports...**

**Field Day** – Field Day scheduled for June 23-24. Rich Mehaffey, KB0ARZ reported we could return to North Bend and set up in St. Charles Parish Center.

**Flea Market** – KB0ARZ reported St. Charles Parish is studying liability insurance issue, which could result in an increase in rental fee. He is working on Flyers for the event, which is scheduled for July 21.

**Hospitality** – Nothing to report.

**Education** – Nothing to report.

**Picnic** – Dave Theophilus, W0NRW reported the date of September 23 at 530 PM had been selected. The Board Meeting will commence at 5 PM on the same date. Both events will be at the Theophilus home.

**Christmas Party** – Jane Mehaffey, KB0ZUN led a discussion on holding the party at DD ranch near Ashland. On a straw vote there was little support for this party. She will look into other possibilities.

**75<sup>th</sup> PARC Anniversary** – KB0ZUN passed around treats she had prepared.

**Public Relations** – Nothing to report.

**ARES** – W0NRW reported that the Region 5/6 Emergency Planning Expo would be held at the Fremont City Auditorium on March 13. As PARC/ARES will have an exhibit, a sheet was

passed around to sign to help. He also reported Dodge County Spotter Training would be held on April 18 at 7 pm at Extension Office in Fremont. PARC is a co-sponsor of training. He reported PARC received a \$200 grant from Region 5/6 Emergency Management.

**ARES Net Manager** – John Beranek, KC0KKE passed around a sign-up sheet for Net Controls stations.

**...Old Business...** Nothing to report.

**...New Business...** **WorldRadio Article** – Several copies of an article, "Kid on the Wire" in March 2007 WorldRadio were passed around. David Lohr, W0FBI/JE1JKY, wrote the article. He was on the bus trip to Dayton in 2006.

**North Bend School Program** – KB0ZUN reported the Amateur Radio demonstration by PARC at North Bend would occur sometime in the spring.

**Repeaters** – Lance Hoffman, WN0L gave an update on repeater owner's meeting. He has a new CW ID on his 67 machine. Parts have been ordered for the 440 machine owned by KF0MS.

**Book Sale** – W0NRW reported on the Friends of the Library Book Sale to be held at Fremont City Auditorium on April 12-15.

**POT** – For the Pot, Larry Marten, K0SW was drawn. He was not present so \$4.25 will be carried over to the March meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 753 PM. Following adjournment, KF0MS read two humorous pieces.

*Recorded by Secretary Dave Theophilus, W0NRW.*

**Larry Martens' K0SW,  
name was drawn.  
He was not present.  
Oh No! \$4.25 Carries to  
next month.**

### Pioneer Amateur Radio Club March 2007 Treasurer's Report

Savings.....	\$130.68
Checking .....	808.24
TOTAL .....	\$938.92

#### INCOME:

Dues .....	\$20.00
Total Income .....	\$20.00

#### EXPENSES:

Newsletter .....	\$9.80
Total Expenses .....	\$9.80

**Membership Dues:** Dues are \$10 for first member of a family and \$3 each additional member per calendar year if paid between Jan. 1 and March 1. Dues are prorated at \$1 per month after March 1 for new members. Previous year member's dues remain \$10 whenever they are paid. Life membership is \$200.

SEND TO: Sharon Martens  
2316 E. First St.

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Steve Benke, KFØMS

Hope all your antennas survived the wx. I lost the end off 1 element on my TH6. It works ok on 10M & 20M, but doesn't like 15M at all. As far as I know, that is all the winter damage I have. I put out the rain gauge, so as far as I'm concerned, winter is over, OK ?? OK !!

I have been doing some reading of emails sent to me lately. They mostly come from the ARRL. It deals with dwindling memberships and boredom at club meetings and related events. I think we all need to put on our thinking caps and come up with some ideas to re-energize our group. I would like to hear what you have to say at the next club meeting. What I don't want to hear is anyone saying that some else's idea is no good. I would like to hear all of your ideas and then we can digest them later. I would like ideas about field day, flea market, club meetings, & any other things we do. Nothing is off limits. I would really like more people stepping up with programs for club meetings. It isn't easy coming up with something every month. Mel did one on his wire recorder. That really isn't a ham radio, but it was very interesting. If you have something like that, please inform Rich, KB0ARZ. We would like to have you present you program.



A big thank you to W0NRW, WN0L, K0VLA, & N0LGU for setting up and manning the display at the EPCRA Expo at the city auditorium. There were quite a few other organizations there also. When it came time for the prize drawings, PARC was represented well again. "I" won the grand prize. It is a sight seeing tour of Fremont by airplane.

I know the wx is getting very nice, but please mark your calendar and come to the club meeting on the 23rd.

STEVE KFØMS

## Antennas & Stuff

*(Continued from page 1)*

During the code contest being held at the Kearney ham convention in 1980, I was checked out as the winner by Mac McKinney, WØAP. The prize was a new Vibroplex Iambic Electronic Keyer, which I did a lot of practicing on and found that I could not send with the old bug anymore. As promised, I sold the bug back to Tom. Harry, WØRN, found a McElroy semiautomatic key but I could not send well on it either. I gave the McElroy back to Harry for the collection and after Tom became a silent key, I bought the old Vibroplex back from Cleo, KØJFO.

It sits on the shelf with a code practice oscillator hooked to it just waiting for me to come back to it.

Once you have heard the code being sent by an old semi-automatic bug, you will recognize the double clicks on the dits.

There are very few of these being used, on the air, today so you don't hear them very often but it sounds really neat in the hands of a good operator.

Just some old nostalgia about some Ø landers who made a difference to me and also to celebrate the demise of the code exams in American Amateur Radio.  
73 de KØSW

### PARC 2007 EVENTS

Spotter Training	-----	April 18
PARC Sponsors Refreshments		
Field Day	-----	June 23 & 24
Flea Market	-----	July 21
Picnic	-----	September 23
Board Meeting	-----	September 23
Christmas Party	-----	December 7

**PIONEER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Fremont, NE**

Darlene Hoffman—Editor Ph: 402-628-2038  
2411 County Rd 15 e- mail: darleneh@alltel.net  
Colon, NE 68018 Call: NOLOP

President—Steve Benke Secretary—Dave Theophilus  
V. President—Rich Mehaffey Treasurer—Sharon Martens

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Carl Johnson, Mel Cunningham , Joe Roberts,+ 2 Officers

**Committee Chairs**

Field Day—Larry Martens Publicity—Kiel Eltiste  
Flea Market—Rich Mehaffey Education—Steve Benke  
Picnic—Dave Theophilus Net Manager—John Beranek  
Christmas Party—Jane Mehaffey ARES Mgr.-Dave Theophilus  
Hospitality—Sharon Martens Technical—Carl Johnson  
Special Event—Rich Mehaffey

**HAMBASH 2007**

**ARARAT Amateur Radio Shrine Club**

Sanctioned by ARRL Ararat Shrine  
5100 Ararat Drive Kansas City, MO  
Saturday, April 21, 2007  
Talk—In 145.13-

**First Prize:** \$300. Cash **Second Prize:** \$100. Cash  
**Third Prize:** \$50. Cash

**ADMISSION:** \$4.00 At the Door Advance 3 for \$7.00

Set up 6 a.m.  
Open at 8 a.m.  
Hourly Door Prizes  
Main Drawing—1 p.m.  
Close at 2 p.m.

8' Trader's Tables  
Limited Electricity  
Trader Tables: \$17. each  
(includes 3 admissions)  
Reserve Tables in Advance

Featuring: ARRL Seminar, MARS Seminar, and something new! An Auction for equipment from the Flea market, as well as new and used equipment from other sources. Emergency Service Vehicles on display. Visit [www.hambash.com](http://www.hambash.com)

Table Reservations:  
Steve Dowdy, WJØI  
816-941-3392  
sdowdy@kc.rr.com

Tickets SASE to:  
Ray Pautz, NØRP  
13 SE 125 Rd  
Warrensburg, MO 64093  
PH: 660-747-5002

<http://home.alltel.net/jlhoffman/index.htm>

**DMRAA**

**Des Moines Radio Amateur Association  
Hamfest 2007 April 29, 2007**

**92.5 KJJY 7 Flags Event Center  
2100 NW 100th St—Clive, IA 8 a.m.**

Admission \$5.00 All Tables \$10. Each  
Grand Prize—Dual Band Radio and other Prizes

Featuring WBØW, Radio City, and D&L  
Talk -in—146.34 -94 Tone 114.8

No Tailgating [www.qsl.net/zero.com](http://www.qsl.net/zero.com)  
Lowell Abarr KB6SDI 515-287-2922

**Things to Remember**

**PARC Program—** A video “Ammonia Cloud” from Minot, North Dakota at this Friday’s meeting.

**Weather Spotter Training—  
April 18th, 7 p.m. at Dodge County  
Extension Office** PARC is sponsoring.

We will need everyone to bring something for refreshments—cookies, bars, pie, cake.