

THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Communicator

February 2017

Nebraska Turns 150!—Hams Celebrate

Radio amateurs in Nebraska will celebrate the state's 150th anniversary during the Sesquicentennial Anniversary Celebration Week QSO Party, starting on Saturday, February 25, and continuing until Sunday, March 6. That time period includes the actual anniversary date, March 1. Nebraska amateurs may operate from their own stations or as part of Nebraska historical site activations, appending "/NE150" to their call signs. A Facebook page has been established.

Nebraska stations transmit name, signal report, and Nebraska county (plus historical site, if appropriate). Non-Nebraska stations transmit name, signal report, and state, Canadian province, or DXCC entity. A special QSL card will be available with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and QSL to the Nebraska station contacted.

Fred has been working on this project with the group and the following is a recent status report from him.

1. Celebration Activity is Underway! Began New Year's Day. Operations we are aware of include:

a. Hams from Lincoln ARC have been very active as W0H/150 starting 1 Jan. They have been on almost every day. Hundreds of QSOs logged to date

b. KB0LF also active 1&2 Jan as K0A/NE150

2. **Application to NE150 Commission.** The application to the NE150 Commission for Official Event status is still pending. It has been about a month (4 weeks is what the Commission claims is the longest wait for processing) but there have been holidays in the interim and that would explain some delay.

3. Regarding the Celebration Week QSO Party

a. The event will go from 8 AM Saturday, Feb 25, to 6 PM Sunday, Mar 5. About eight and half days. It is not certain that there will be NE stations on continuously the whole time, although there may be.

b. NE Stations should identify themselves with either (or both) of the following: (1) a 1x1 call; (2) the suffix /NE150.

c. NE stations choose the day and time that they would like to operate, and the band/mode. We expect to have a website operational and hope that stations will register with the website (there will be contact information/email address) the day/time/ band/mode of operation and the location from which the operation will take place if not a home QTH.

d. NE Stations are encouraged to participate in a kick off of the Celebration Week on the first Saturday, Feb 25. Hopefully this will help advertise the event to those who might not be aware of the 150th celebration.

e. As an option, NE stations are encouraged to operate from a venue of some historical or other noteworthy venue. Eg Capitol bldg in Lincoln, Ft Kearney, a Lewis and Clark site, Agate Fossil beds. This information on venue would be included on the website. Portable operations from a public site can be tricky, and ARRL has some guidance that should be followed.

f. During the course of the celebration week, NE stations, that are able and interested, are encouraged to operate from multiple venues, though only one venue at a time.

g. But operation from a venue that is not a home QTH is optional, and stations are encouraged to support the celebration in any way they can.

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Meeting Calendar

Annual Dinner in at Famous Dave's
5 pm, Sunday, January 29, 2017

8am, February 25, 2017
at Mom's Café

**2016
PAID MEMBERSHIP**

- AGØLSteve Loyd [E]
- AIØN..... Chuck Engberg* [E]
- K3CRF.....Dave Smith [E]
- K5LBS Jerry Gault [E]
- KBØFSI Pat McCollum [T]
- KBØLFFred Ericksen [E]
- KBØOGORoger Behrns* [E]
- KBØSJB.....Tom Katalenich [G]
- KCØHYD John Titsworth [G]
- KCØHYE.....Shirley Titsworth [T]
- KDØNMD.....Dudley Allen [G]
- KDØBXB..... Kim Allen [T]
- KEØXQ.....Bill McCollum [E]
- KGØKRBeth Engberg* [E]
- KIØPY Kevin Faris [E]
- N5SEZ..... Ray McNally[E]
- WØDBW.....Derek Winterstien [G]
- WØZYDave McLaughlin[E]
- WØZYD..... Debbie McLaughlin[G]

**Charter Members #New Ham*

Note: Thanks to all who have paid their dues and many who have given additional donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please let me know of any corrections.

Meetings are 8am the last Saturday of most months at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth.

Tuesday night get-togethers at Plattsmouth Burger King at 7 PM



P.A.R.C. Officers

- President**
KBØOGORoger Behrns
rb55930@windstream.net
- Vice President**
KCØHYDJohn Titsworth
- Secretary**
N5SEZ.....Ray McNally
- Treasurer**
KIØPY Kevin Faris
- Newsletter Editor**
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Repeaters:
443.45⁺ is located in downtown Omaha
443.225⁺ is located in Murray.
147.48 Simplex is also in Murray.

Web Site
www.kb0smx.com
Maintained by Derek

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The November 26, 2016 meeting was called to order at 8:23 am at Mom's Café by President Roger Behrns.

Those in attendance were Roger (KBØOGO), Kevin (KIØPY), Derek (WØDBW), Fred (KBØLF), and Keith (KAØIJY).

The Minutes of the October meeting were approved on a motion by Kevin and second by Fred.

The treasurer reported no changes to the finances. We have \$260 in the repeater fund and \$717.85 in the general fund for a balance of \$977.85.

The Annual Dinner will be 5 pm on Sunday January 29 at Famous Dave's in Bellevue. The party room is reserved.

Fred reported that March 1 marks the 150th anniversary of statehood and gave an update on some activities that are being planned.

Fred also reported that the Nebraska QSO party will be the weekend of April 22 & 23.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 with a motion by Kevin and second by Keith.

| PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|---|---|-------|
| Name | | Call Sign | | Class | |
| Address | | City | State | Zip | |
| E-Mail | | | Phone # | | |
| Spouse Name | | | Call Sign | | Class |
| Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Primary(\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> New Ham | ● Additional donations are gratefully accepted. ● New Hams are free during the year they receive their first license. ● Please give this form and dues to the club treasurer or any club officer. | | Donation for: <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater fund <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> General | Amount: <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer my donation to be anonymous. | |
| Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s? | | | | | |

**2017
Nebraska QSO Party**

April 22-23, 2017

For Rules and Info:
<http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm>

The annual Nebraska QSO Party is scheduled for Saturday April 22 from 8am to 8pm and on Sunday April 23 from 8am to 5 pm. Check out the rules, but the objective is simple: make as many contacts as you can. The exchange is the call sign, signal report and county you are operating from. Collect their call, signal report and state, province or country or Nebraska County.

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4. Celebration Week Awards. Emailed Certificates

a. Out of state. Out of state stations making ten (10) or more contacts with NE stations during the celebration week are encouraged to submit a log and receive an emailed certificate acknowledging their participation. The logs need only list one QSO per NE station worked. We request that logs be electronic, in Cabrillo or adif format, and contain only QSOs made during the celebration week activity. Hand logs will be accepted. Logs must include call, band/mode, date and time; in addition they must include the name, call, address, and email address of the station requesting the certificate.

b. In state. NE stations are encouraged to submit a summary of their activities to include bands operated on, modes used, total QSOs, and optionally a list of the number of each s/p/c worked. NE stations will receive an email certificate acknowledging their participation. This information will help us report the overall ham activity to the State NE150 Commission.

5. Questions to the NE150 Ham Committee

a. Contact information will be posted on the website www.NEhams.org.

6. QSL cards

a. Special Event QSL cards will be available free to NE stations. The design is (or will soon be) shown on the website.

b. The cards will be distributed in several ways: by hand to some clubs; to clubs and individuals by mail with an SASE.

c. QSLs to out of state stations working NE stations will be prepared by the NE station provided an SASE has been received.

d. Out of state stations are expected to find NE station addresses on QRZ.com. For 1x1 calls not listed on QRZ, the ARRL 1x1 database lists the trustee of the 1x1 call, and QRZ can be used to get the trustee's address.

7. Websites

a. NE150 Commission. www.ne150.org

b. The website www.NE150hams.org remains under construction. We are waiting for the NE150 commission to approve our submission for Official Event status. The website will eventually have a schedule of operations (calls/dates/times/bands/modes) for NE150 NE stations, a calendar for activities, contact information, and important links (to Facebook for example).

8. Facebook

a. There is a Facebook page, NE150hams. It has been active this first week in Jan, many Lincoln hams have been on the air. NE Stations have been posting when they go on the air, and when they go off.

Official state website: www.ne150.org

Ham Radio Site: www.NE150hams.org

www.arrl.org/news/nebraska-sesquicentennial-celebration-qso-party-set-for-february-march

Also check the club site for updates: www.kb0smx.com

Transceiver Coaxial Cable Selector Switch

Contributed by: Derek Winterstien, w0dbw

If you are going to connect two or more transceivers to a single antenna using an antenna selector switch, be warned, you need to consider how much RF you are dumping into the unused transceiver. There are antenna selector switches that cannot be safely used as a transceiver selector switch. Never assume you can use them interchangeably.

Not all antenna selector switches are up to the task of using multiple transceivers on the switch. They are typically designed for using a single transceiver on multiple antennas.

Two factors need to be considered when selecting a coaxial switch: 1. Output Isolation 2. Grounded Unused Connector

The first factor is the Output Isolation of the signal, which is to say how much signal from your transmission is bleeding onto the unused connection. The better the isolation the less signal will be getting into the unused transceiver. This mostly has to do with the spacing of the internal wiring.

The second factor is the grounding of the unused connector. Most low-end antenna switches do not ground the unused connection. Grounding the unused connection helps to bleed off stray signal to ground rather than into the unused transceiver.

The MFJ-2702 is an inexpensive antenna selector switch that should not be used to connect two transceivers to a single antenna. Although it has suitable output isolation at 70dB or more for the HF band, it does not ground the unused output connector. The MFJ-2703 does more than simply add an additional connector. It also has additional internal parts to ground the unused connectors, which helps mitigate RF from entering into the unused transceiver.

When you are using an antenna switch box as it is intended, to select from two or more antennas for a single transceiver, then these factors are less important in that they are relative to signal loss. When you are using an antenna switch box to connect two or more transceivers to a single antenna, then you take a chance at damaging an expensive transceiver. Don't use a cheap antenna switch box unless you are certain that it can be used in this manner either by design or by carefully considering its output isolation as well as whether or not it grounds the unused connector. Some coaxial cable switch boxes are advertised as both a transceiver and antenna selector. You should still verify that the unused connectors are grounded rather than open.

Consider the Workman model CX-3 as an example of an antenna selector switch which is barely suitable for its intended purpose. With a poor HF isolation of 42dB and completely lacking a center conductor ground at the unused connectors it isn't even an ideal antenna switch. If you planned to use it to connect multiple transceivers to a single antenna you risk damaging those transceivers because power from the selected transceiver is going to bleed into the unused transceivers. This would not be a problem at QRP power levels, however, at 100 watts it would be a bad idea. Although immediate damage may not necessarily occur, over time it would inevitably lead to failure of your radios.

Finally, when you are using a coaxial cable switch to connect two or more transceivers to an antenna, be care to observe the switch position before you transmit. Human error can still result in damage to your expensive transceiver. Make sure you never transmit when the switch is not set to the transceiver you are using.

Lincoln Hamfest

ARRL Nebraska State Convention

Saturday March 11, 2017

Lancaster Event Center

84th & Havelock, Lincoln NE

<http://www.lincolnhamfest.org/>