



## ARRL Midwest Division Newsletter March 2017



### Nebraska Sesquicentennial Celebration

Art Zygielbaum KØAIZ

I'm delighted to report that the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Amateur Radio Commemorative got off to a great start. All year long, Nebraska hams will be adding "/NE150" to their calls to mark the event. A QSO party was held for the nine days surrounding the state's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, March 1, 2017. Free QSL cards are being distributed to Nebraska hams to confirm contacts with stations. Certificates are available on request to recognize participation in the event. For more information, please visit the NE150hams website: [ne150hams.org](http://ne150hams.org).

Nebraska is a great site for a ham event. We seem to be a bit rare for a state. I set up my SteppIR in bidirectional mode pointed east-west on 20 meters and called CQ. Three hours later I had worked 225 stations. Fun!

Please listen for Nebraska hams participating in the event this year.



# NEBRASKA STATEHOOD 150

1867  
2017





## Ralph Crumrine, NØKC, Wins QST Cover Plaque Award

Rod Blocksome, KØDAS, Division Director, received the following notice from ARRL HQ:

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*The article "A Small, Lightweight High-Voltage Switch-Mode Power Supply" has been announced the winner of the Cover Plaque Award for the January 2017 issue of QST. The winner is a distinguished member of your division:*

*Ralph J Crumrine, NØKC*

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The plaque marking this achievement was presented to Ralph by Kansas Section Manager Ron Cowan, KBØDTI, at a meeting of the KCDX Club on February 27, 2017. Ron reports that three dozen members of the club were in attendance at the meeting. Ralph was also the meeting presenter. Ron wrote that, "He went through both the amplifier and the power supply noting the technical aspects of his projects. It was interesting to hear how he designed and tested the home brew parts. The power supply transformer was given special attention due to the tolerances required." Our hardest congratulations to Ralph for his wonderful article.





## **WW1USA Special Event Held January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**

Randy Shulze, KDØHKD

WW1USA, the Amateur Radio Voice of the National World War I Museum and Memorial at Kansas City held their first event of 2017 as part of the multi-year centennial observance of the First World War over the weekend of January 28th and 29th. This particular event was in commemoration of the Resumption of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare by the German Navy in 1917, and development which eventually contributed to pulling the United States into the Great War.

Here are some statistics for the recent event:

- 1,600 QSOs total among 3 modes (Phone, CW, PSK31)
- 42 States worked
- 5 Canadian Provinces works
- 23 DX entities worked including Australia, Japan and South Korea

Overall, across all events to date, the WW1USA Special Events has made over 14,500 contacts with over 11,100 different stations from all fifty United States, and Seventy-Five DXCC Entities.

Typically, four Amateur Radio Special Events are held each year at the Museum commemorating specific events during the multi-year centennial of World War I. In consideration to the local weather patterns, the teams schedules two events to occur outdoors, and two events to occur indoors. The recent event in January was an indoor event, where several operating points control one of several stations around the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, with one notable exception. A 1,500 Watt Station owned by K0IZ, John Raydo located on a mountain top in Colorado!

The upcoming dates and commemorations for 2017 include:

- April 29th and 30th: The United States Enters the War (Declares War on Germany)  
(Outdoor event)
- July 22nd and 23rd: The Battle of Passchendaele (Indoor Event)
- October 14th and 15th: US Troops Begin Combat Operations (Outdoor Event)



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We'd like to think that this is not just a "Kansas City Event." The WW1USA Team would be happy to gain the assistance and participation of all hams, from anywhere! If you can come to Kansas City to operate at one of the special events; we'd love to have you. If you have an idea on how you can help out from where you are; we'd love to hear about it! As a bonus, during all of the WW1USA Events, the museum offers a special discount admission of only Five Dollars to anyone showing evidence of an Amateur Radio Operator's License, including up to three additional people in their party. Making this offer even more special is that guided tours of this world class museum are provided to the groups of amateur radio operators and their families!

Watch for an upcoming, feature article in QST Magazine about the WW1USA Special Events!



Indoor operations Feb 2016. Seated Left to Right: W0PWJ - Joe Krout, KD0VMM - Bruce Bielby, NOAHB - Noah Bielby, NOCVW - Charles Vanway N0EI - John Morris, KA2FNK - Bill Gery, NZ0F - Herb Fiddick. Standing: KORU - Rob Underwood, and KOIZ - John Raydo.





## Nebraska ARES Happenings 2017 February 2017



**ARRL Nebraska Section Emergency Coordinator  
Lonnie Rech WDØAOP**

New appointments in Nebraska for most all ARES Regions. These are exciting times for ARES in Nebraska, and we have many positions that need to be filled. Getting Re-Energized is part of the process to help make Nebraska ARES one of the best in the Midwest. We are in the process of updating Names, Faces, and Appointments. During the last several months we have made the following appointments for DEC's:

ARRL New District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for the Northeast Nebraska District is **J.R. Rieder KØJWR**. J.R. has been busy working with local officials and getting the Northeast District moving forward. Congratulations J.R. Raider KØJWR.

ARRL New District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for the South Central Nebraska District is **Michael Matthews-KDØQEO**. Congratulations to Michael. Roger Hammond KCØMWM has retired from this appointment to spend more time with family. Thanks Roger for your service.

ARRL District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for the Nebraska Panhandle District is **Neal Ziller NØUVP**. This is a re-appointment for Neal who has served the Panhandle District for many years. Neal has agreed to stay on as the DEC for this area. A big thanks to Neal.

ARRL District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for the Southwest District is **Rick Disney KAØDIZ**. Rick has been re-appointed for this area and has been the DEC in this area for many years. Thank you Rick for continued service in this area.

ARRL District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for the Southeast Nebraska District is **Reynolds Davis KØGND**. Reynolds has agreed to serve another term for the Southeast Nebraska District. Congratulations to Reynolds, and we really appreciate your efforts in this area.

We still have 3 Regions in Nebraska that the DEC appointments are unfilled as of yet.

They are the **East Central Region-East Central District** (10 Counties) Boone, Platte, Colfax, Dodge, Nance, Howard, Merrick, Polk, Butler, and Saunders.

The **North Central / Sandhills District** (22 Counties) Deuel, Keith, Arthur, Grant, Cherry, Hooker, McPherson, Thomas, Logan, Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Holt, Boyd, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Valley, Greeley, Sherman, and Custer.

And the **USAI or TriCounty District** (3 Counties) Washington, Douglas and Sarpy.

If you are interested in one of these appointments, or know of someone who is, please contact me Lonnie Rech WDØAOP by email at [wd0aop@arrl.net](mailto:wd0aop@arrl.net), or [kickcam@gmail.com](mailto:kickcam@gmail.com)

We could use those interested in ARES that are available, qualified and want to serve the ARRL Nebraska Section ARES. You can make a difference. Thank You.



## Midwest Division Assistant Directors

In order to better serve the ARRL members in our Division, Rod Blocksome, KØDAS, is looking for at least 4 to 5 members from each section to serve as Assistant Directors. We would like to improve communications between ARRL leadership and our members. The goal is to be more accessible and responsive. The Directors will act as our contacts and advisors in meeting this goal. Here is the current list of Midwest Division Assistant Directors. If you are interested in helping out, please let us know. You can contact Rod at [k0das@arrl.org](mailto:k0das@arrl.org) or Art at [k0aiz@arrl.org](mailto:k0aiz@arrl.org).

### Missouri:

Paul Haefner, K0JPL  
Dave Propper, K2DP  
Kent Trimble, K9ZTV  
Roger Volk, K0GOB  
Eric Zust, W0TT  
Cecil Higgins, AC0HA  
John Frederick, N8GOU

### Kansas:

Mike Albers, K0FJ  
Jim Andera, K0NK  
Bill Henderson, K0VBU  
Charlie Hett, K0THN  
Brian Short, KC0BS  
Rick Tucker, W0RT

### Iowa:

C. W. Pantel, K0IIR  
Jim Spencer, W0SR  
Tim Busch, N0CKR

### Nebraska:

Reynolds Davis, K0GND  
Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB  
Allen Harpham, WD0DXD



## Where in the World is Rod, KØDAS?

Art Zygielbaum, KØAIZ

For those of you wondering where Rod is, he is off in the Pacific on an amazing adventure to help discover what became of Amelia Earhart. The Collins Amateur Radio Club took on the task of trying to reveal the propagation conditions that would have affected Amelia's last shortwave transmissions in order to try to pinpoint her location. You can find out more about all this at the nauticos.com website. Their newsletter describes what Rod is up to. Here is the tiny URL for the newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/wheresrod>.



Tom Vinson, NYØV, Program Management, Advanced Data Links wrote:

*I started by calling up the hams (amateur radio enthusiasts) that I knew in the HF communications area to see if they would like to participate in an Earhart communications analysis. My first call was to our HF Systems guru, Rod Blocksome (KØDAS). And it grew from there. The initial team included:*

*Tom Vinson (NYØV): Program Management, Advanced Data Links.*

*Rod Blocksome (KØDAS): HF Systems.*

*Dan Roesler (WDØHOJ): HF Propagation.*

*Roger Hatcher (WBØOMY): Antenna Design & Modeling.*

*Charley Snodgrass (KCØCD): Avionics Software, Navigation.*

*Don Grimm (WAØWJM): Avionics, Navigation.*



*After I handed out the ship's logs and the team convened to study the Earhart communications their first response was "It can't be done!" I recall that I said "So that's it? We go back to Nauticos and tell them it can't be done?" Their answer was "Well, let's think about it some more." What was encouraging to me is how the team changed our thinking about the problem. We set aside the idea that it was impossible and instead asked "If it were possible, how would we do it?" That led us to start reviewing what information we knew and what we did not know. And for the information we did not know, how could we obtain it?*

*That is how we ended up recording simulated Amelia transmissions, finding an AR-60 (CGR-32) receiver in New York and driving there for tests. Driving to Canada for radio tests. Flying out over the Atlantic off Cocoa Beach at 1,000 feet altitude in the Rockwell Collins Cessna 206... twice. Traveling to the Pima Air Museum in Tucson to measure the L10A's antenna impedance and conduct visibility analysis. And we cannot forget creating field tests on a 1/12th scale model Electra in an Iowa cow pasture and with a Beech 18 Tri-gear in Ankeny, Iowa to measure the antenna pattern on a cold 7 degree day in winter.*

I think that Rod is going to have some fine stories to tell when he gets back!

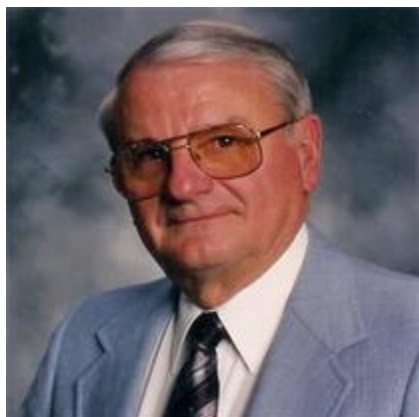


Research Vessel R/V Mermaid Vigilance





## **Lew Gordon, K4VX, Silent Key**



It is with great sadness that we recognize the passing of past Division Director Lew Gordon, K4VX. His obituary included the following:

Griffith Lewis (Lew) Gordon, 87, of rural Hannibal passed away Saturday, February 25, 2017 at his home.

Lew was born on October 21, 1929, in Wabash, IN, the son of Griffith L. Gordon, Sr. and Mabel Ealy (Bush).

He married Marie Theresa Girard of Fairfield, Vermont, April 17, 1954 who survives him. He is also survived by sons Stuart Gordon of Monroe, Georgia; Glenn Gordon of

Hannibal; and daughter Sharon King of Columbia, Maryland. In addition there are six grandchildren. Lew was preceded in death by his parents.

Gordon graduated from Shortridge High School in Indianapolis in 1947. He served in the U S. Air Force during the Korean War, and later completed his college training under the Korean G.I. Bill at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, obtaining a bachelor degree in physics with honors. He also did graduate work in physics at Georgetown and American Universities in Washington, D.C.

Gordon spent the majority of his professional career as an electronic engineer with the Central Intelligence Agency retiring in 1979. During this time he was stationed with his family in several overseas locations. He was a recipient of the CIA's prestigious Career Intelligence Medal. He later continued as a consultant with the US Government until the end of the Cold War in 1990. Gordon was an avid amateur radio enthusiast having received his first FCC license in 1947 as W9APY. He later was issued the call sign K4VX which he has held until his death. In 1993 he was elected to the position of Midwest Division Director for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) serving in that capacity until retiring in 2000. The Midwest Division includes Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

In 1996, he was elected to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame for his contributions to the field of amateur radio contesting. His antenna towers on the old Bush family farm northwest of Hannibal are well recognized by both airplanes landing at Hannibal Regional Airport, and those passing by on Highway 61. He was a life member of the ARRL, the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), Mississippi Valley DX and Contest Club, and the Eastern Iowa DX Association. He was also a member of the Potomac Valley Radio Club and the Society of Midwest Contesters. He was author of numerous technical articles relating to amateur radio receiving the ARRL publication QST Cover Plaque Award in 1993.

Memorial contributions may be made to the James E. Cary Cancer Center, in care of the Smith Funeral Home & Chapel.



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### **03/18/2017 | Mahaska Hams Swapmeet**

**Location:** Oskaloosa, IA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Mahaska Amateur Radio Club

### **03/25/2017 | Springtime OARS Club Hamfest**

**Location:** Mount Vernon, MO

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Ozarks Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://W0OAR.com>

### **04/07/2017 | OzarkCon QRP Conference (Operating Specialty Convention)**

**Location:** Branson, MO

**Type:** ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval

**Sponsor:** Four State QRP Group

**Website:** <http://www.ozarkcon.com>

### **04/15/2017 | Hambash 2017**

**Location:** Kansas City, MO

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Ararat Amateur Radio Shrine Club (WAØNQA)

### **04/22/2017 | DMRAA Hamfest**

**Location:** Des Moines, IA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Des Moines Radio Amateurs Association

### **04/29/2017 | Heartland Hams Hamfest**

**Location:** Glenwood, IA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Heartland Hams Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** [www.heartlandhams.org](http://www.heartlandhams.org)

## ARRL Midwest Division Leadership



**Director: Rod Blocksome K0DAS**

[k0das@arrl.org](mailto:k0das@arrl.org) 319-393-8022



**Vice Director: Art Zygielbaum K0AIZ**

[k0aiz@arrl.org](mailto:k0aiz@arrl.org) 402-421-0839

**Iowa Section Manager:** Bob McCaffrey, K0CY  
**Kansas Section Manager:** Ron Cowan, KB0DTI  
**Missouri Section Manager:** Cecil Higgins, AC0HA  
**Nebraska Section Manager:** Matt Anderson, KA0BOJ

**DX Advisory Committee:** John Yodis, K2VV (MO)  
**Emergency Communications Advisory Committee:** Reynolds Davis, K0GND (NE)  
**Contest Advisory Committee:** Glenn Johnson, W0GJ (IA)  
**Midwest Division Volunteer Counsel:** Craig Long, K0CSL  
**Division Legislative Action Chair:** Mike Edwards, WB9M (MO)  
**Legislative Action Coordinators:** Nick Critelli, K0PCG (IA); Bruce Frahm, K0BJ (KS & NE); Mike Edwards, WB9M (MO).

**Assistant Directors (Missouri):** Paul Haefner K0JPL, Fred Miller KB0WIL, Dave Propper K2DP, Barbara Rich KG0UT, John Rogers W0WC, Kent Trimble K9ZTV, Roger Volk K0GOB, and Eric Zust W0TT.

**Assistant Directors (Kansas):** Mike Albers K0FJ, Jim Andera K0NK, Andy Anderson W0AFQ, Bill Henderson K0VBU, Charlie Hett K0THN, Jon Jones N0JK, Brian Short KC0BS, and Rick Tucker W0RT.

**Assistant Directors (Iowa):** Don Boyvey AK0BG, Dennis O'Brien KA0DOS, C.W. Pantel K0IIR, Jim Spencer W0SR, and Jim Lasley N0JL.

**Assistant Directors (Nebraska):** Frank Cahoy K0BLT, Stan Coleman N0YXV, Reynolds Davis K0GND, Bill Duffy KA0VXK, Joe Eisenberg K0NEB, Allen Harpham WD0DXD, Todd LeMense KK0DX, and Mike Nickolaus NF0N.

**Midwest Division Webmaster:** Steve Schmitz W0SJS email: [w0sjs@arrl.net](mailto:w0sjs@arrl.net)

**Midwest Division's website:** <http://www.arrlmidwest.org/>