



## ARRL Midwest Division Newsletter September 2020



### ARRL and Change

The old saw “Only babies and bus drivers like change” is often quoted when significant changes take place. But change is what “drives” us forward into the future. We are all familiar with the way things are - but uncomfortable with the uncertainty that change brings. Recently announced changes at ARRL headquarters and here in the Midwest Division undoubtedly have left many members with questions and uncertainty going forward. Let me address a few of these changes.

On July 9<sup>th</sup> I announced in an email to Midwest Division ARRL members that I would not be seeking an additional term as director. I have served on the ARRL board for 10-years – first as vice-director and then two terms as director. I feel that periodic change in an organization’s leadership is often times healthy. My 10 years of service is a small payback for all the great amateurs who have helped me in ham radio over the past 60 + years and which also led to my education and career in Electrical Engineering. So I took this opportunity to “retire” (again).

Recently, the nomination window closed for Midwest Division Director and Vice-Director. There was only one candidate nominated for the director position and it was therefore announced that Arthur Zygielbaum, K0AIZ would be the Midwest Division Director effective Jan. 1, 2021 for a three-year term. Art has been the Vice-Director for the last 6-years and therefore very capable and well versed in the complex issues, procedures, operations, and governance of the ARRL board. So rest assured that we, the Midwest ARRL members, are going to be well represented on the ARRL board by Art.

At the close of nominations, two candidates for Vice-Director were announced: Dave Propper, K2DP, and Lloyd Colston, KC5FM. So the division members will choose their next Vice-Director by mail-in ballot. The Vice-Director consults with the director, serves on board committees, and has the power of succession per the bylaws. Therefore I urge you to carefully evaluate each candidate and mark your ballots with your choice. Typically only about 25% of members return ballots in division elections. Let’s see if we can get a much higher percentage of voter turn-out in the Midwest Division.



## ARRL Midwest Div. Newsletter — Sep. 2020 p. 2



Finally, after much diligent hard work and in spite of the COVID-19 restrictions, the ARRL board of directors has succeeded in electing and hiring a new Chief Executive Officer – David Minster, NA2AA. David officially takes office September 28, 2020 succeeding Barry Shelley, N1VXY, who graciously agreed to temporarily put aside a well-earned retirement last January to serve as interim CEO while the board searched for a permanent CEO.

Barry had a long productive career as ARRL Chief Financial Officer until retirement. So he was able to quickly and effectively fulfill the CEO role, an accomplishment all the more remarkable considering the difficult challenge of running ARRL HQ during the COVID-19 pandemic. I believe all ARRL members owe Mr. Shelley a debt of gratitude for his outstanding service to the League. If you feel the same, I urge you to drop Barry a short email expressing your appreciation for his service. His email address is [bshelley@arrl.org](mailto:bshelley@arrl.org)

David Minster, NA2AA, comes highly recommended with extensive experience and skills in organizational leadership and management as well as being an active and knowledgeable amateur in many different areas. I urge you to read the announcement on the ARRL web site. There are many changes and challenges ahead in amateur radio and I'm very confident that Mr. Minster will lead us through it all with expert skill and leadership. I would urge you to support Mr. Minster as he transitions into his new position as ARRL CEO.

73s, Rod Blocksom, K0DAS



## Here and There

You'll notice this month's newsletter is a bit thin compared to previous issues. This is due primarily to the Derecho Storm we experienced here in Eastern Iowa on the afternoon of August 10<sup>th</sup>. At my QTH, on the north side of Cedar Rapids, it hit with little advanced warning and even then we didn't expect it to be so powerful with such high velocity. I and a friend were working in my attached garage at the time it started. Electrical power immediately went out.

We stood in the doorway shooting cell phone video of debris and rain flying horizontally past us and at the same time keeping an eye on my antenna tower and large trees on my property. Soon the noise became a "roar" and visibility was down to about 100 feet and I remember thinking how strong my large oak trees were to withstand such force when we decided it might be time to take cover in the basement.

As we scurried to the basement, something big hit my house roof and I'm thinking there could be a tornado bearing down on us. The wind velocity intensified some more and we could hear trees breaking.

After about an hour the winds died down to something normal and we emerged to a surreal scene that reminded me of the WWI French battlefields you see in the movies. All my large trees were broken and splintered but my antennas and tower were undamaged. My Toyota Highlander took a direct hit from a oak branch and the insurance totaled it.

It's now been 20 days and I have things pretty much cleaned up with temporary roof patches until insurance and a contractor can get to me. But many of my ham friends in the area got it far worse than I. One commented "Look on the bright side, we now have much more clear space to put up bigger antennas."

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This weekend, I operated in the Kansas QSO Party. This annual event, organized by Bob Harder, W0BH, of Hesston, Kansas is one of the best I've experienced. Kansas has 105 counties and the gang managed to activate all of them during the course of the contest. In my limited time, I managed to work 25 of them. There were a lot of 1X1 calls – some operating mobile activating some fairly rare counties. For more information, check out <https://www.ksqsoparty.org/>

- de Rod, K0DAS



## Iowa 75 Meter Net History

by Elmer Marting, W0SFK

I am interested in finding out the **history of the Iowa 75 Meter Net.**

Wonder if you or anyone has a record of when it was started or formed?

A listing of the original net control stations, and a listing of net control stations throughout the years of operation?

Also, wonder if anyone has a photo album of the net control stations throughout the years?

Who has been the longest running net control station over the years?

Also, wonder if the present 75 meter stations would be willing to send a picture of their present operating station and/or system with operator?

I would like to compile a booklet or album of the present and possibly past stations.

Elmer Marting, W0SFK  
504 South Egbert Street  
Monona, Iowa 52159

563-880-0343 = Cell Phone  
563-539-2640 = Home/Office/Station Phone



## **Boy Scout Station – KN0BSA**

by Jeff Beiermann, WB0M

Please add us to your calendar, KN0BSA, the Mid-America Radio Scouting Group, will have a station operating on October 17, 2020, for the Mid-America Council's Scouting Jubilee near Ashland, NE. This date also coincides with the Jamboree-on-the-Air, the largest Scouting event in the world (<https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/>). We plan on operating from 13:00Z until 02:00Z (Oct. 18th).

KN0BSA will most likely be on 20 meters between 14.320-14.340 and 17 meters above 18.140. On 40 meters we should be around 7.282. We will also have a digital station running PSK31 on 40 meters and 20 meters.

If anyone has time to monitor and take time to talk with Scouts, that would be great.

Tnx to all & stay safe,

Jeff Beiermann  
WB0M  
KN0BSA trustee

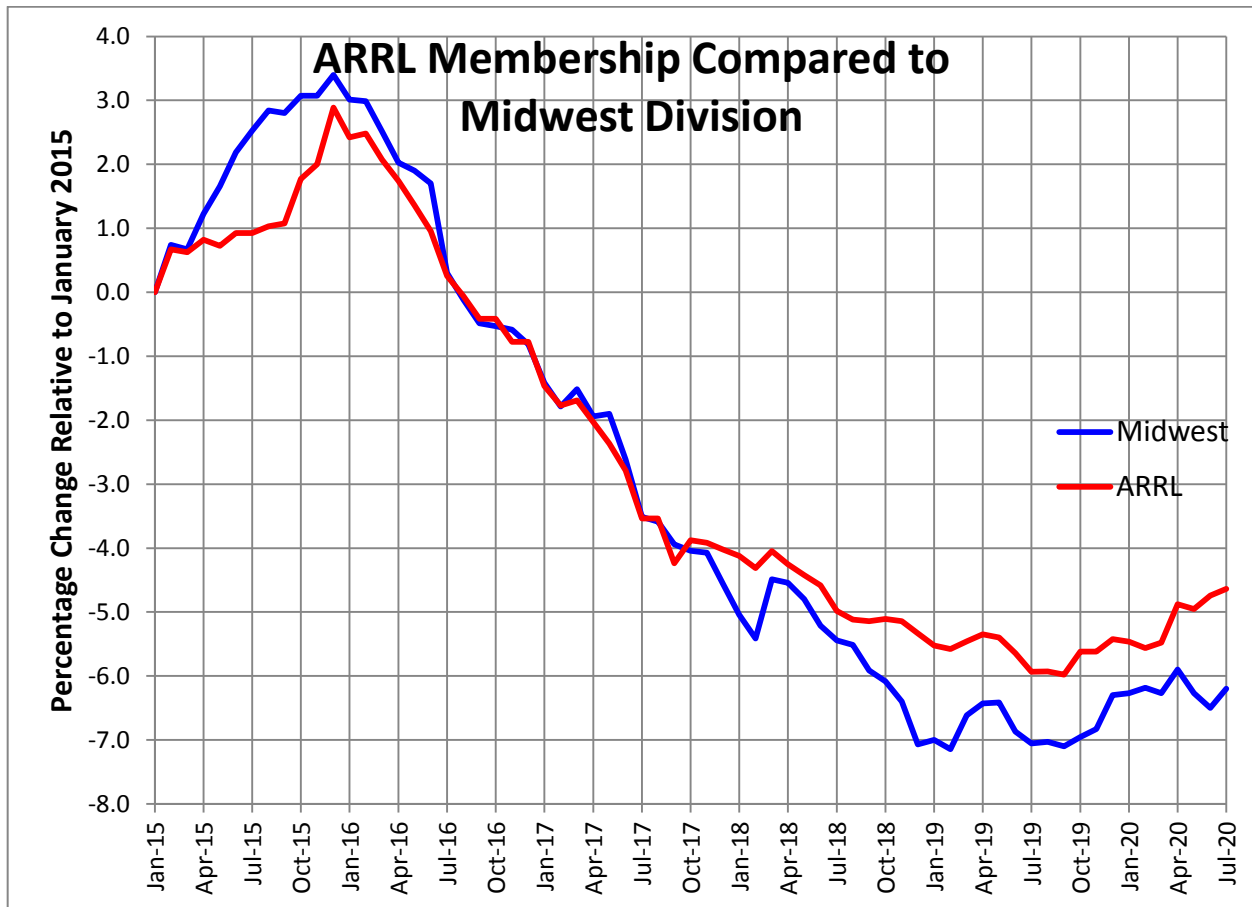


## ARRL Membership Statistics Update

by Rod Blocksme, K0DAS

During the month of July total ARRL membership increased 0.1% while the Midwest Division increased by 0.9%. The Midwest Division had an increase of 21 members in July – putting us to a total of 6,567. Four years ago, in July 2016 we had 7,022 Midwest Division members. Can we bring in 455 members to climb back to this level? Let's try.

Below are the charts updated as of **July 31, 2020**. Perhaps the virus and our lack of hamfests and club meetings are holding folks back. But let's get innovative and continue this upward trend. Invite a non-member ham to consider joining ARRL and explain to him/her the benefits of membership. ARRL is so much more than just a subscription to QST. Invite them to browse the ARRL web site at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



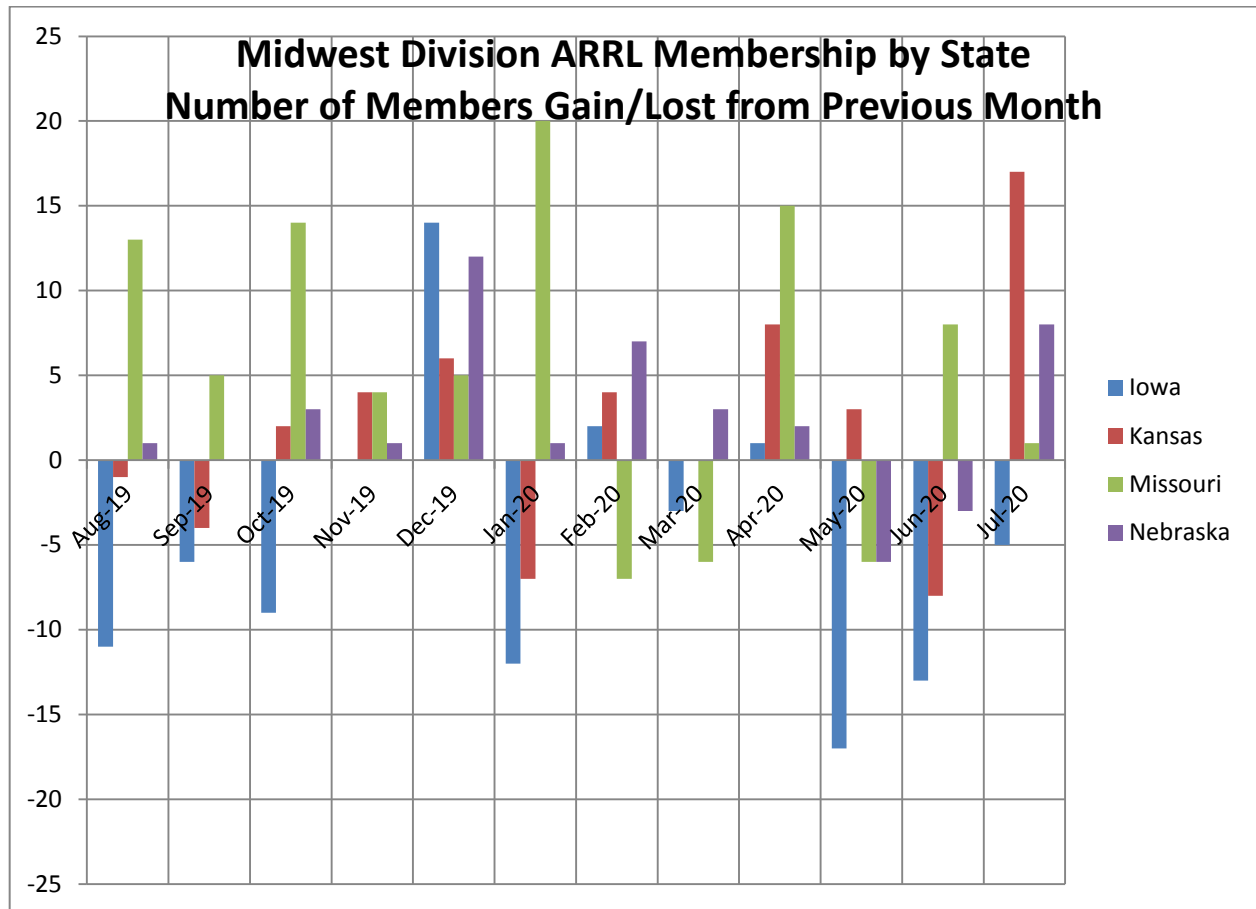


**ARRL Midwest Div. Newsletter — Sep. 2020 p. 7**



Included this month is a chart showing **section membership change from the previous month**. As you can see, the Kansas, Nebraska, & Missouri Sections have a net gain in members over the last 12-months. Conversely, Iowa has a net loss.

I can't explain the reasons, but armed with the data, let's all work hard to bring more hams into ARRL membership. It won't be easy with all the hamfests canceled, but hopefully this will change in the future. I'm very concerned about the continued decline of ARRL members in Iowa. If anyone has ideas on turning this trend around, please let me know.





## Midwest Division ARRL Hamfests & Conventions

**09/05/2020 - Reno County Kansas Amateur Radio Association 2020 Hamfest - CANCELLED**

**10/03/2020 - Wichita Area Hamfest - CANCELLED**

**10/04/2020 - Southeast Iowa Hamfest**

**Location:** Columbus Junction, IA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Muscatine ARC & Washington Area ARC

**Website:** <http://www.MuscatineARC.org/se-ia-hamfest>

**10/31/2020 - ARRL Nebraska State Convention 2020 - CANCELLED**

**10/31/2020 - Halloween Hamfest - CANCELLED**

**11/01/2020 - 49th Davenport Radio Amateur Club Hamfest**

**Location:** Davenport, IA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** W0BXR Club

**Website:** <http://www.arcsupport.com/drac/>

**11/21/2020 - Northeast Nebraska Hamfest**

**Location:** Norfolk, NE

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Elkhorn Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

**Website:** <http://www.qsl.net/evarc>





## State QSO Parties in the Midwest Division

### Iowa

September 19, 2020, Story County ARC Sponsor: <http://www.w0yl.com/IAQP>

## Midwest Division Special Event Stations

### 01/01/2020 | Iowa State Parks On-the-Air Centennial Celebration

**Jan 1-Dec 31, 0000Z-2359Z, various**, Dubuque, IA. Great River Amateur Radio Club. All bands, all frequencies, as available. Certificate & QSL. IASPOTA-2020, c/o Great River Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1384, Dubuque, IA 52004. Members will operate with their own call signs from state parks throughout Iowa. Operating as time permits, mostly weekends. QSL for contact; certificate for 5 parks. See website for complete information.

### 09/12/2020 | 4th Annual William Becknell Heritage Days Special Event - Founder of the Santa Fe Trail

**Sep 12-Sep 13, 1400Z-2200Z, WB0SFT/KC0VYS**, Overland Park, KS. William Becknell Santa Fe Trail Heritage Days. 21.365 14.265 7.265 3.865 1.830; SSB CW FT8. Certificate & QSL. See website, for information on, receiving certificate or QSL. On the trail 1x1 calls, W0B through W9B, and Parks on the Air (K-4579) activation. QRZ and LoTW. See website for details, and how to receive a certificate and/or QSL. [www.wb0sft.org](http://www.wb0sft.org)

### 09/26/2020 | 84th Anniversary, SENARC Emergency Communication Exercise

**Sep 26-Sep 27, 1500Z-2100Z, N0N**, Johnson, NE. southeast Nebraska Amateur Radio Club. 14.230 7.180. Certificate & QSL. Charles Bennett, P.O. Box 67181, Lincoln, NE 68506. From Coryell Park. [senebrradioclub@gmail.com](mailto:senebrradioclub@gmail.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/SENARC>



**10/02/2020 | Lester Dent - Doc Savage Special Event**

**Oct 2-Oct 3, 1500Z-2300Z, W0D**, Macon, MO. Macon County Amateur Radio Club. 14.270 7.200 3.950. Certificate. Macon County ARC, P.O. Box 13, Macon, MO 63552. The Macon County Amateur Radio Club will operate the Lester Dent-Doc Savage Mystery Special Event W0D, in Macon, MO. The purpose of the Special Event is to honor of the accomplishments of Lester Dent, one of the most prolific writers of Pulp Fiction, world class adventurer, pilot, creator of the Dent Master Fiction Plot Formula and an Amateur Radio Operator. The Special Event also commemorates the 87th "Birthday" of Doc Savage the first modern superhero, Lester Dent's creation. A colorful certificate will be provided to those that contact the Special Event Station and send a QSL including a # 10 SASE to the Macon County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 13, Macon, MO 63552. [dbagley@cvalley.net](mailto:dbagley@cvalley.net) or <https://www.maconcountymissouriarc.org>

**10/31/2020 | National World War I Museum and Memorial**

**Oct 31, 1500Z-2300Z, WW1USA**, Kansas City, MO. National World War I Museum and Memorial. 14.225 SSB 7.250 SSB 14.060 CW 7.060 CW. Certificate. WW1USA Amateur Radio Station, World War 1 Museum and Memorial, 2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO 64108. We will be commemorating the 102nd anniversary of the Armistice, which ended the fighting in World War 1. Our operation will be inside the Museum, in the Postcard Gallery. All local and visiting hams are invited to come visit. [ww1isa@theworldwar.org](mailto:ww1isa@theworldwar.org) or [www.qrz.com/db/ww1isa](http://www.qrz.com/db/ww1isa)

**11/07/2020 | Honoring Veterans for Veterans Day**

**Nov 7, 1500Z-2200Z, W0FSB**, Waterloo, IA. Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club. 18.124 14.240 7.240. Certificate & QSL. Five Sullivan Brothers ARC, 3186 Brandon Diagonal Blvd, Brandon, IA 52210. For QSL card: Send card and #10 SASE; For Certificate & QSL: Send QSL, address label and 3 Forever stamps; For eQSL & Certificate: Send eQSL, then an email to [w0fsb@outlook.com](mailto:w0fsb@outlook.com), requesting a .jpg file of the certificate that you can print yourself [www.qrz.com/db/w0fsb](http://www.qrz.com/db/w0fsb)

## ARRL Midwest Division Leadership



**Director: Rod Blocksome K0DAS**

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**Vice Director: Art Zygielbaum K0AIZ**

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

**Iowa Section Manager:** Lelia Garner, WA0UIG

**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)

**Contest Advisory Committee:** Glenn Johnson, W0GJ (IA)

**Midwest Division Volunteer Counsel:** Craig Long, K0CSL (IA)

**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, Dave Propper K2DP, Kent Trimble K9ZTV, Roger Volk K0GOB, Cecil Higgins AC0HA, John Frederick N8GOU, Eric Zust W0TT, Randy Schulze KD0HKD, and Ron Lowrance, K4SX.

**Assistant Directors (Kansas):** Mike Albers K0FJ, Jim Andera K0NK, Bill Henderson K0VBU, Charlie Hett K0THN, Richard Johnson K0RCJ, Rick Tucker W0RT, and Jon Jones N0JK.

**Assistant Directors (Iowa):** Tim Busch N0CKR, C.W. Pantel K0IIR, and Jim Spencer W0SR

**Assistant Directors (Nebraska):** Matt Anderson KA0BOJ, Joe Eisenberg K0NEB, Allen Harpham WD0DXD, and Todd LeMense KK0DX.

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

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