

PARC News

Pioneer Amateur Radio Club of Fremont, Nebraska

- > MEETING
- > Thursday,
- > Mar. 28, 2019
- > Supper 6 p.m.
- > Meeting 7 p.m.
- > Hero's
- > Gambino's
- > 1900 E. Military
- > Fremont, NE

Epic? In Our Lifetime—Never!

Saturday, March 23, 2019

Now that things have slowed down a bit, here is what amateur radio operations were like during the March 2019 Flood in Fremont.

It started out on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in Dodge County Emergency Manager Tom Smith's office in the Dodge County Courthouse in Fremont, with the two of us discussing the situation. I was there to provide him weather information, via the National Weather Service (NWS), and to set up amateur radio communications support for him. The morning rainfall report, with several Hams contributing information, had shown that around ½ inch of rain had fallen on the snow, with over an inch in the Hooper area due to a report from the automatic gauge operated by Carl, N0YUV.

The Thursday, March 14 rainfall report showed that ½ to ¾ inch of additional rain had fallen. Tom Smith requested two additional amateur radio operators. I turned that duty over to other Fremont operators and concentrated on weather support. It was apparent that this was going to be a major flood operation, so Tom and I moved to the meeting room in the Fremont Police Department and he set up the Dodge County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This turned out to be an excellent move because there are several phones, emergency power, WiFi, and is adjacent to the 911 Communications Center for Dodge County.

Mel, K0VLA and Steve, WB0VNF were the two additional Hams that I called for assistance. K0VLA set up and operated the OMMRS equipment at Methodist Fremont Health. WB0VNF went to the Lutheran Church shelter on East Military. He was relieved in the afternoon by Frank, K0AJA. Joe, N0XAT was mobile and sent us pictures and reports of the flooding. Jim, KB0DYU also sent us reports as did Dan, W7UP. I was using the automatic rain gauge run by Geri, N5RIG, who also sent reports.

On Friday, March 15, K0VLA was at the EOC at 7 AM, having been asked to go there by the CAP. I joined him at 10 AM. Operations in the field continued with WB0VNF coordinating the placement of the volunteer Hams. Larry, K0SW and Sharon, KB0TVB joined us for 2 days at Clarmar School for the Volunteer Registration Center. Mac, W0UVQ was able to assist them there.

(Flood Continued on Pages 4 and 5)

Inside this issue:

Minutes,	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Lincoln Hamfest	3
Larrys Truck	3
Flood Stories & Pics	4
Flood Stories & Pics	5
Info Needed	6
Tornado Drill	6

PIONEER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2019

The Pioneer Amateur Radio Club Meeting for February 28, 2019, was called to order at 7 PM by Vice President Ed Altmanshofer, NE0EA. 25 people were present, who introduced themselves.

MINUTES and TREASURER’S REPORT: The January minutes and February Treasurer’s Report were approved as printed in the February *PARC News*.

MOTION to PAY BILLS: None.

HOSPITALITY: Sharon Martens, KB0TVB sent a thank you card to the family of Dave Bauer, N0LGU for \$50 from his family in his memory.

EDUCATION: Jane Mehaffey, KB0ZUN had nothing to report.

FIELD DAY: Scheduled for Izaak Walton League Park in Fremont on June 22-23, 2019. Don Renze, K0OM Chairman.

FLEA MARKET: Scheduled for North Bend on July 13, 2019. Chairman Rich Mehaffey, KB0ARZ. He passed around a multi-meter which will be one of the prizes. The main prize this year will be cash. KB0TVB moved that \$350 be allocated for prizes, a \$200 prize, a \$100 prize, and \$50 for small prizes. K0OM seconded the motion, which passed. There will be a Silent Auction again with Steve Narans, WB0VNF in charge.

PICNIC: Scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 2019 at the Theophilus home. Dave Theophilus, W0NRW and Sharon Martens, KB0TVB Chairpersons.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Linda Kirchmann, W0ZIP Chairperson asked if everybody was happy with the Outer Limits in Valley. They were so she will go ahead and set up a party.

NET MANAGER: Mel Cunningham, K0VLA thanked everybody. He has 4 Net Control Operators. He would like to see more check-ins. He said that he would need a Net Control for March 27 during Spotter Training. *(Spotter Training was later canceled due to the flooding.)*

ARES: W0NRW said Spotter Training would be in Scribner on March 27 at 7 PM. *(Spotter Training was later canceled due to the flooding.)* K0VLA and W0NRW both passed the ICS300 course in Fremont on February 9-10. K0VLA, W0NRW, and WB0VNF will be attending an Emergency Management meeting on March 12 at the Police Station.

PUBLICITY: W0NRW reported that the meeting notice was printed in the *Fremont Tribune*.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: WB0VNF reported that the DMR repeater currently at the home of Arnie Grubbs, KA0NCR will be moved to the Gifford Towers by George Blessing, KC0HYI and will be on 444.850 (-). The rent will be \$50 per year to the Fremont Housing Authority. They will take down the other antennas and other equipment that is there. KB0ZUN moved that since PARC pays the rent for the KD0EFC repeater on the other tower we should pay the rent for this repeater. K0OM seconded the motion, which passed.

DRAWING: The winner of \$10 was Jake Jacoby, KC0QDH.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 736 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Theophilus, W0NRW

**Radio Club
Treasurer’s Report
March, 2019**

Savings	\$ 348.78
Checking	2,780.25
Petty Cash	70.00
TOTAL	\$3,199.03
INCOME:	
Dues	\$ 79.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 79.00
Expenses:	
Drawing	\$ 10.00
Fremont Housing (WB0VNF)	\$ 50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 60.00

PARC



Eventful Lincoln Hamfest???

Saturday, March 9, started out poorly! Larry, KØSW, was scheduled to meet me, at our place, before 8:00 am. Anticipating his arrival, three times during the week, I had graded both driveways of snow. Evidently, I did not do a good enough job. When he turned on to the south driveway, he made it about 30 feet before his pickup slid off the drive into 18 inches of snow. He tried to extricate himself, but could not. It took a few minutes before I noticed he was stuck.

I grabbed my coat and drove out the east drive and around to where he was. As he got out of his truck and headed to mine, the rubber tip on his cane got stuck in the snow. When he bent down to find it, I thought he had fallen into the packed snow. He found the tip and got into my truck. I breathed a sigh of relief!

We decided to leave his truck where it was and head to Lincoln. That part went very smoothly!

Arriving at the Lancaster Event Center, we found that all the handicapped parking spots were taken, so he got out, at the entrance, and I found a fairly close parking space. When I got into the center, he had very graciously paid my entrance fee. We secured a couple of chairs at a 'meet & greet' table, near the entrance, and relaxed.

My guess is that a third of the available seller tables were filled with goodies. There seemed to be a lot of empty tables, probably due to the previous days nasty weather. There appeared to be a lot of activity going on, with bargains to be had. Unfortunately, I could not find any of my anticipated purchases at any of the tables.

Larry had purchased some items from Schulman Auction, in Kansas City, that were delivered by Gary, WAØJRM. We eventually located Gary, so I went with him to his vehicle to retrieve the items and load them into my truck. In addition to Larry's goodies, Gary had an additional item for another ham. A very large, heavy Hallicrafters receiver. I know, because Gary asked if I could lift it, since his back was bothering him. I did and carried it to the hams vehicle. After getting it, almost on his back seat, it was evident it would not fit, so back out it came, to be placed in his trunk. It was heavy and awkward to maneuver!

We spent most of the day at the 'meet & greet' table. Around 1:00 pm, we decided we had enough fun there, so decided to head back to have more fun!

Back at my south drive, I pulled up to his truck, got my towing strap out, and discovered my truck did not have tow hooks on the front. Backed out of the drive and backed up to his truck. Hooked the tow strap to my receiver hitch and to his hitch. I then pulled him out of that snow bank and into the west ditch. He was stuck again! I drove around to the east drive and to his truck, hooked up the strap to his front bumper and pulled him back to the original stuck location. It just wasn't working like it should. I put the truck back into the garage and started my tractor. This time we had success, he was back on the driveway! He drove to my garage while I graded the east drive, again! We got his items loaded into his truck and he drove home. During all this fiasco, Darlene and Sharon were on the phone, laughing, I think!

Sure hope next year's Lincoln Hamfest has better weather!

Lance, WNOL



Flood Continued From Page 1

I started providing 3 weather briefings a day at the EOC that continued through Friday, March 22. I also answered weather questions and handled most of the coordination with the NWS. The EOC grew to as many as 25 people at times. Four members of an EOC support group came in from Lincoln with Mark Hosking, Deputy Director of Lincoln/Lancaster Emergency Management, in charge of the EOC. They gave Tom Smith a chance to get some sleep and to organize the EOC in a way that would function efficiently and also provide documentation for later reimbursement from FEMA. The four of them left on Thursday, March 21, but they also trained their replacements while they were here, using local Fremont people. Tom Smith continued in over-all charge of the Operation.

Throughout this, I was coordinating with Ed, K0RPT, the ARRL Nebraska Section Emergency Coordinator. Through him we arranged for Lance, WU0Q to assist us on Monday, March 18, after he was able to make it across the Platte at North Bend and reach us via a county road. Lance, WN0L and Darlene, N0LOP were also able to make their way into Fremont and assist us.

It was difficult to communicate in/out of the temporary EOC with hand-held Ham radios, so either K0VLA or myself stepped outside when communication was required. We also used cellphones and text messages. That is a separate issue that I will address at a later date.

The reason for asking K0VLA to originally activate the OMMRS equipment was to act as a good base station. He had good coverage using the 146.67 repeater, but he did find a problem with the antenna on the roof which will need to be addressed at a later date.

As the Flood Operation continued, it became apparent that regular communications were doing a good job and we were there as a back-up. It also became apparent that the Hams were doing a great job as volunteers who also just happened to be Ham operators. Their actions are a story that can be told later as I do not know all the details yet, but they are impressive so far.

The EOC closed at 5 PM on Friday, March 22, as the disaster transitioned into recovery mode. However, several of the Hams are still volunteering in the positions where they found they had skills.

On a personal note, in my career in the NWS, I supported EOCs many times, but this is the first time that I actually operated in an EOC. It has been an educational, enlightening, and rewarding experience. I have been doing something that I thought might be making a difference in my own town with my own friends. I am sure that is true for all the volunteers in general and specifically the Ham volunteers.

Since the rains have returned to the area on Saturday, March 23, I will be collecting rainfall reports as usual on Sunday, March 24, and on into the future. Plus, we are available for communications support as always.

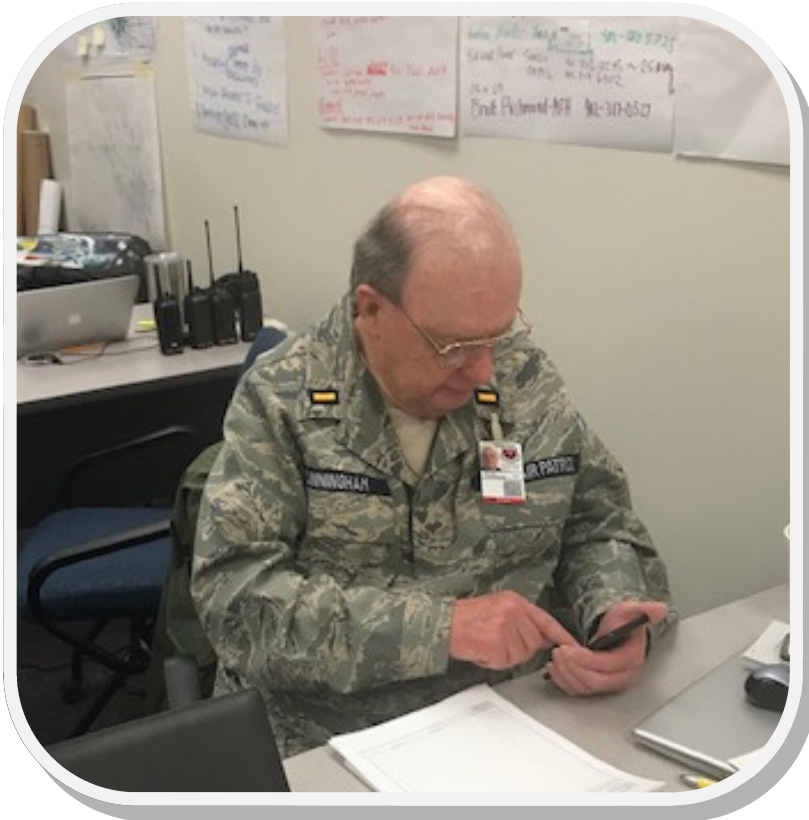
Thank you to everybody who was able to assist in this Disaster, knowing full-well that many more wanted to help but it was impossible to get here for a few days.

Now comes the important task of identifying what went right and the areas in which we could improve and how we might do that. Several of you have already made suggestions and I hope all of you will do the same.

Dave Theophilus, W0NRW Dodge County ARES

P.S. I still need hours volunteered and mileage driven who have not already sent this information to me.





Photos by Dave WONRW

“Eerie, Weird” Not Good Feeling

Sharon, KB0TVB, described Saturday of the flood as “eerie” when she went to the grocery store.

For me, it was “weird” not being able to get to Fremont. We conduct all our business there! Sure, we could get our groceries and gas in Wahoo, but what do I do about our house cat that has to have a special food our vet orders for her or she gets very sick?

As I always do, I had planned to go to Fremont on Friday to do several errands, one of them to get the cat food. Callie had food to last through sometime Tuesday, no problem right, plenty of time. Wrong! Couldn't get there Friday, Saturday, then Sunday. Well, I can still get it Monday. Not yet on Monday. I'm starting a slow panic. Relax, she's only a cat. How do you tell a cat there is no food?

I know how I felt, and this is very minor compared to all the people in Fremont that were dealing directly with the flood. I hope we never see anything like this in the remainder of our lifetimes.

Darlene NOLOP

River	F.S.	Current	FCST	Record	CAT
Platte North Bend	8	9.98 ↑	11.1 Today	15.6	Minor
Platte Valley	8	2.27 ↑	10.2 SVN	11.8	Mod
Logan Uehling	18	20.09 →	20.5 Today	20.9	Mod
Pebble Scribner	18	18.34 ↓	24.5	24.5	Was
Elkhorn Winslow	17	Gauge out Repair on way	22.5 Fri	24.0	Mod
Maple Anderson	11.5	17 →	16.9 Today	17.6	Mod

Update Time 3:20 PM 3/14/19

PARC Officers & Chairpeople

President, Tony Renze, K00MH

V. President, Ed Almanshofer, NE0EA

Secretary, Dave Theophilus, W0NRW

Treasurer, Sharon Martens, KB0TVB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jim Sweeney, KB0DYY

Bob Kirchmann, W0ICE

Larry Martens, K0SW & 2 Officers

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Hospitality: Sharon Martens, KB0TVB

Field Day: Don Renze, K00M

Flea Market: Rich Mehaffey, KB0ARZ

Picnic: Dave Theophilus, W0NRW &
Sharon Martens, KB0TVB

Christmas Party: Linda Kirchmann, W0ZIP &
Jane Mehaffey, KB0ZUN

Publicity & ARES: Dave Theophilus, W0NRW

Education: Jane Mehaffey, KB0ZUN

Net Manager: Mel Cunningham, K0VLA

Joining Our Organization

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Yearly: \$10. per member

Family Yearly: \$10 first member, \$3
each additional member

Paid between Jan. 1—March 1

After March 1, dues are prorated
at \$1 per month for new members.
Previous year member's dues remain
\$10. whenever paid.

Life Membership: \$200.

Send To:

Sharon Martens, KB0TVB, Treasurer

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PARC

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We're on the web:

K0JFN.com

& Facebook

W0NRW Needs Your Info

As this Flood Disaster has moved into the recovery phase, I will be needing information from those of you who were able to volunteer your time in Dodge County. I need your volunteer hours and your mileage. I have already received that information from several of you, but I still need it from the rest of you.

This information is important because it will help Dodge County meet its 1/4 obligation for federal assistance. Otherwise Dodge County taxpayers will be on the hook for 1/4 of the damage bill. We will still be paying a share because there is no free money, but the bill will be spread over millions of taxpayers and not just the ones here.

Also, due to the flooding, Spotter Training in Dodge County on March 27 has been canceled. Current spotter training sessions are available at: <https://www.weather.gov/oax/spotter>

We have all been through a historic experience. Thank you for all that you did and continue to do.

Dave T. W0NRW Dodge County ARES

Check Into The Tornado Drill

The statewide Tornado Drill is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27 between 10 AM and 11 AM.

I will activate a net on 146.67 MHz when the Test Tornado Watch is issued and again when the Test Tornado Warning is issued. Please check in if you can.

Dave T. W0NRW Dodge County ARES

HAMFEST - 2019
Saturday, April 6, 2019 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Glenwood, Iowa
American Legion Hall
104 N Vine St, Glenwood, IA 51534
Northeast corner of the town square Talk-in 145.290 MHz

VENDOR **D & L ANTENNA SUPPLY CO.** (816) 591-1646
N3FJP logging software to be given away

Admission \$5.00
Tables \$8.00

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Contacts: Call ahead for a table
Don Brown (712) 520-7942
Sharon Sullivan (402) 551-1673