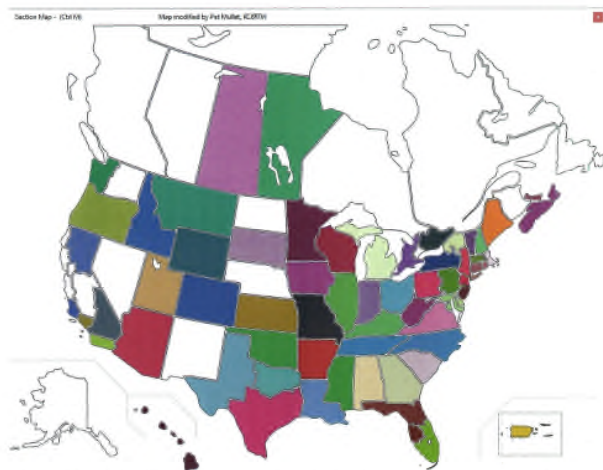


THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Communicator

August 2026



Field Day Stats:

Total Contacts—307, 233 CW, 62 Phone, 12 Digital
Bands: 80—10, 40—54, 20—95, 15—109, 10—39
Contacts: States-45, Canadian Provinces-4, Puerto Rico

Costly Deep Space Antenna Repair

(ARnewsline 6/29/26) NASA is facing a repair bill of between \$4.1 and \$4.6 million for Deep Space Station 14, its 70-meter RF antenna near Barstow, California - all because of what it has found to be inadequate procedures and inadequate training of workers. A report recently released by the agency said that its investigation found a number of primary causes, including human error, weaknesses in software and an undetected failure in the antenna's hydraulic limit system, which is its final mechanical safeguard.

The incident that took the antenna out of service occurred last September as it was tracking the Juno mission for deep-space exploration focused on Jupiter. The antenna over-rotated, adding stress to structural supports and cables and damaging water lines feeding the antenna's fire-suppression system. An article on NASA's website states that investigators concluded that operators felt compelled by "workplace culture" to work as quickly and efficiently as possible "often stretching beyond their usual roles, expertise and training to keep the antenna operating."

NASA considers these findings to be its final report. The antenna, a key part of the Deep Space Network, is expected to be out of service until October of 2028.

<https://www.arnewsline.org/>

<https://eyes.nasa.gov/apps/dsn-now/>

FCC OKs Giant Mirror Satellite

(ARnewsline 7/17/26) The FCC has approved the right of startup company, Reflect Orbital, to use radio frequencies in the S-, X- and UHF bands, to launch and communicate with its low-earth orbit satellite, the Eärendil-1 (uh-RAN-dill One), which it has scheduled for launch later this year.

The satellite's mission is to capture and reflect sunlight into darker regions of the Earth via a giant 60-foot reflector from its orbit 600 to 650 kilometres above the planet. The company intends for this test satellite to be the first of up to 50,000 such orbiting mirrors. Reflect Orbital believes the satellite's beam, which would be 5-kilometres, or 3-miles wide on the ground, could be harnessed to power solar farms or illuminate disaster areas where rescue workers toil late into the night.

Agency approval was granted on the 9th of July despite vocal objections about light pollution from opponents such as the American Astronomical Society. A number of environmental groups have observed how nocturnal species' lives can be disrupted and perhaps imperiled by artificial light during the night. According to various media reports, opposition had been overwhelming among the more than 1,800 public comments the FCC received.

According to the company's account on LinkedIn, Reflect Orbital received a \$1.2 million Small Business Innovation Research grant from the Department of Defense, through the Air Force, which sees promise in having additional sunlight transform military operations.

Mandatory AM Radio in Cars

(ARnewsline 7/10/26) A deadline looms for a long-simmering campaign in Washington, D.C., as lawmakers push to make AM radios a mandatory feature in all new cars in the US.

The AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act has been around in one form or another for a few years and has support of both parties in Congress. This year it faces being wrapped into a larger package of transportation-related bills called the Build America 250 Act, which lawmakers are targeting for passage by the 30th of September.

The debate centers on AM radio's traditional role as the medium of choice to carry emergency broadcasts in the case of natural disasters or severe weather. Auto manufacturers, who oppose the measure, say that the advent of electric vehicles has created interference with the AM signal and that makes listening all but futile. They also cite the added cost of continuing to use AM in vehicles.

2026 PAID MEMBERSHIP

PAID MEMBERSHIPS are in **BOLD**

ABØER..... Tom Stiefel [E]
AGØL Steve Loyd [E]
AIØN..... Chuck Engberg* [E]
KBØFSI..... Pat McCollum [T]
KBØLF Fred Eriksen [E]
KBØOGO Roger Behrns* [E]
KCØHYD John Titsworth [G]
KCØHYE Shirley Titsworth [T]
KDØDLY..... Paul Chiarello [T]
KEØPFQ Justin Fader [G]
KEØXQ Bill McCollum [E]
KEØTR..... Paul Stanek [A]
KFØFHH..... Erik Jamison [T]
KFØRMO..... Paul Duran [G]
KFØRMZ Stanley Winterstien [T]
KFØVCA..... Dale Mortensen [T]
KGØKR..... Beth Engberg* [E]
KIØPY Kevin Faris [E]
N5SEZ..... Ray McNally[E]
NØLZH..... John Harrington [G]
N8VCL..... Scott Schreiber [E]
WØDBW Derek Winterstien [G]
WDØCFC Gary Bauersachs [E]
WØJRN Jim Nelson [E]
WR5I..... John Bergman [E]

**Charter Members #New Ham*
Note: Thanks to all who have paid their dues and those 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 6 PM or so.

PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB

KBØSMX

P.A.R.C. Officers

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KBØOGO.....Roger Behrns
rb55930@windstream.net

Vice President
N8VCL..... Scott Schreiber

Secretary
WØDBWDerek Winterstien

Treasurer
KIØPY Kevin Faris

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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 (W0DBW)

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MINUTES of
the
MEETING

The May meeting was held at Mom's Café on May 30, 2026. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Scott Schreiber at 8:02 am.

Those in attendance were Kevin (KIØPY), John (KCØHYD), Chuck (AIØN), Derek (WØDBW), Jim (WØJRN), Scott (N8VCL), Erik (KFØFHH), Paul (KDØDLY) Justin (KEØPFQ), and Dale (KFØVCA).

The Minutes of the April meeting were approved on a motion by John and seconded by Dale.

The Treasurer reported receiving dues and donations of \$50. This leaves \$512.55 in the General Fund and \$385 in the Repeater Fund for a total of \$847.55. The report was accepted on a motion by John and second by Justin.

Field Day planning is ongoing with Scott as the Chairman. Responses to the survey were requested as well as needs for overnight staffing.

A club in Kansas is seeking to put a repeater on the same frequency as Murray. Interference is unlikely.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 on a motion by Jim and second by John.



PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM					
Name		Call Sign		Class	
Address		City	State	Zip	
E-Mail		Phone #			
Spouse Name		Call Sign		Class	
Membership Type ☐ Primary(\$15) ☐ Spouse (\$5) ☐ Student (\$5) ☐ 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: ☐ Repeater fund ☐ Insurance ☐ Other _____ ☐ General	Amount: ☐ I prefer my donation to be anonymous.	
Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s?					

Meeting Calendar
8am, Sat July 25
8am, Sat August 29
8am, Sat September 26
at Mom's Café.