



THE PILOT KNOB AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

QRZ

QRZ VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 APRIL, 2005

QST-FROM THE SHACK

By Mike Stewart, ABOVM

Another Spring is upon us. Thanks to everyone who supported New Ham Night in March. Congratulations to those who won a door prize (OK, so there was only one of you), and a special thanks to Glenn, KC0TIE, for providing the J-Pole as a bonus prize. Glenn's a real craftsman, and I know he'd be willing to share his expertise with others who might be interested in constructing one. Maybe next year we'll label the meeting "My Favorite Ham Gear." It seems to fit the spirit of the meeting better. Hope everyone managed to learn something new, or maybe an interest in an old favorite was rekindled.

If you're looking for an inexpensive way to get into a new mode, check out the Ham version of a flea market. April brings hamfest season in Kansas-Missouri, and I look forward to seeing many of you at one soon. The Hambash in mid-April is always a good one, although the last few years you've needed a rowboat to get to the door. No matter as the atmosphere is always friendly, and many of us have managed to snag some real bargains in the past. Another good event to consider is the Joplin hamfest in late April. It's held in conjunction with OzarkCon, the Midwest's annual QRP gathering. And, of course, there's the pilgrimage to Dayton in May....

April's theme is emergency preparedness, and I urge you to begin by assessing your personal readiness for the Spring storm season. You might start with one of the most basic pieces of equipment we should all have in our homes-a NOAA all-hazards weather radio with SAME encoding. One didn't have to attend March's spotter training to know how essential early warning is for your safety. Chuck Magaha and Larry from Kansas City will be presenting at the April meeting, so I hope each of you will make plans to attend. Look for more details elsewhere in QRZ. As always, Paul, KC0JQC, could use your help in Leavenworth County ARES. If you haven't signed up for ARES, please consider contributing your skills to this area of amateur radio.

While we're on the subject, the grants for ARRL's emergency communications courses end this Summer. ARRL members can sign up for the next level, complete the course, and get reimbursed for the tuition. The courses are worthwhile regardless of your skill or experience level. One change to note for April's schedule-due to the low interest expressed in the General Class seminar, we'll postpone it until August. That will free up some operators for April's public service events. We've been asked to support two bike events-one on April 9th and a second on April 23rd. Listen for details on an upcoming net.

Lots coming up in the next few months and I hope you'll participate. What a super group we have. Thanks to all for your continued support of the Club and your community.

See you on the Bands!

Special points of interest:

- *QST-FROM THE SHACK*
- *Club Purpose*
- *Club Information-Officers, Nets, Meetings, Social Events*
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- *FCC Examination Schedule*

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MEET A HAM-DOUG THOMAS, KC5VKG

Let's see. What can I tell you about myself that hasn't already been written in Forbes' Fortune 500, PEOPLE magazine, and TIMES' Man of the Year? Oh yeah, everything! Hihi I currently reside in Leavenworth, and work for a local company, Heatron, in their Flex department. There we make heating units for various companies, such as Respironics and Frymaster (who in turn make heated food storage devices for McDonalds'). I am divorced and have one daughter who lives in Oklahoma with her mother, and she will turn ten later this year. And don't think I haven't tried to plant the seeds of amateur radio there! My interest in amateur radio began, as most probably did, with scanning. While a member of a local fan club in the mid-90s, I met Mike Malotte, NOSLI, who first mentioned amateur radio to me. It wasn't until a few years later, after I married and moved to Oklahoma (hence the "5" call) that my interest truly peaked after purchasing an old Radio Shack communications receiver. With it, I began hearing shortwave radio stations as well as operators talking with others both here and abroad and thought "I'd like to do that!" A few months and one study guide later, I received my Tech Class license.

After my divorce and my move back to Leavenworth, my use of amateur radio dwindled for a time. It wasn't until I joined PKARC a few years ago that I truly became active and found out what amateur radio is all about. I am now an active member of PKARC, as well as a member of ARRL and KCAPRS. I also serve as the Alternate Liaison Officer for the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council (MECC). Additionally, I currently serve as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator under Paul Backs, KC0JQC, as well as the County Coordinator for SATERN, the Salvation Army Emergency Radio Network. I am the voice of net control for the Sunday night ARES net on 147.000 (+). While I don't have a "main" focus in amateur radio, I am most interested in emergency communications and disaster preparedness. I prefer to work behind the scenes, not that I wouldn't go out in the "thick of things" if needed. I also have an interest in some of the digital modes, especially SSTV and packet/APRS.

Currently I hold a Tech license with plans to upgrade to General by Field Day. Outside of amateur radio, I am a recent member of KAGH (Kansas Area Ghost Hunters) and an avid Geocacher(thanks to Gary, WB0MNA!) I plan to keep involved in Club activities as much as possible and encourage others to do the same, even if for only a few minutes during an event. Remember, the Club and its services are only as good as the members who support it. Until the next one. 73 and have a good work week. DE KC5VKG.

**Join Us for an Emergency
Preparedness Orientation
on 7 April at the American
Red Cross**

**MEET ONE OF OUR
MOST ACTIVE HAMS
WITH A "5" LAND
CALL SIGN!
DOUG THOMAS**

APRIL MEETING-EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, 7 APRIL

The April meeting will look at emergency preparedness from two perspectives. Chuck Magaha, Leavenworth County of Emergency Management, will discuss the latest developments in the County. As you know, Leavenworth amateurs directly support the County with our extensive communications capabilities. This is a chance to hear about recent improvements in the County's capabilities and to find out how you can assist in the event of an emergency.

We also support the American Red Cross. Larry, KA0YJE, will bring the American Red Cross' emergency communications vehicle up from Kansas City for display. You'll be able to look through the vehicle and learn more about its communications capabilities. Look forward to seeing everyone there.

NET SCHEDULES

PKARC NETS

The PKARC Information Net meets each Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. on 147.000 (+). Contact Dave Phillips, KE0DL for more information.

Mac McConnell, W0ROO, operates a 70cm. Net on 444.800 at 7:15 P.M. on Sunday evenings just prior to the ARES training net.

ARES NETS

The ARES Net meets each Thursday at 7:30 P.M. on 145.330 (-) except for the first Thursday of the month when the Club has its regular meeting. Dick Quinlan can provide additional information.

The ARES Information and Training Net meets each Sunday at 7:30 P.M. on 147.000 (+). Doug Thomas usually is the NCS.

KANSAS NETS-

-3.920 MHz (LSB)

-Sideband net is at 6:30 P.M. daily.

-Phone net is at 6:45 A.M. on MWF.

-3.940 MHz (LSB), KS ARES, 7:00 P.M., First Thursday of the month.

-3.610 MHz (LSB)(QKS) is at 7:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M. daily.



KANSAS CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INVITATION

Larry Staples, W0AIB, sends the following: "Dear Members of PKARC: The message below announces a fine opportunity to meet with radio folks. The Kansas City Amateur Radio Club is one of the oldest Ham organizations in the area. Some of us really old persons can remember when KCARC was closely linked with the RACES organization in Kansas City, Missouri. In recent years, this fine Club has owned and operated a bunch of great repeaters, including the 146.82 repeater, which shows the Club's civic spirit, is the repeater used by SKY-WARN. Whether or not you are a member, show up at the first of such social meetings on 19 April."

The message Larry refers to above reads:

From: Tim McCuiston, N0SZE

Subject: Kansas City Amateur Radio Club to Host a Social

You do not need to be a member of the Kansas City Amateur Radio Club to attend this:

KCARC monthly social meeting to be held the 3rd Tuesday of every month at K.C. Masterpiece Bar-B-Que located on the southeast corner of and Metcalf.

Take I-435 to Overland Park. Exit at Metcalf Avenue and go south to 110th Street. Turn east on 110th Street, then left into the parking lot. Meeting time is 1900 hours until whenever you finish eating and visiting.

Order will be called at 1930 at which time introductions and announcements will be made. There will be no minutes taken, no officer or committee reports, and no official club business to be voted on.

The restaurant was kind enough to offer us space, so we encourage you to test the barbecue, especially the sauce that decorates your chin!

Message edited for spacing purposes.

**BE ACTIVE ON
THE NETS
AND SHOW
WHAT YOU'VE
GOT!**

**MEET SOME
OF YOUR
FELLOW
LOCAL HAMS!**

PKARC TEST DATES

Club members and others interested in taking the FCC examinations for the various license classes should know that testing sessions for the Club have been set at the American Red Cross building on Shawnee Street, Leavenworth on the following dates throughout the year: 29 April, 24 June, 26 August, 28 October, and 16 December. Please notify Martha Auchard at 772-7350 of your desire to take the test, so Volunteer Examiners can be notified and all the elements you need are on hand.

If you need assistance preparing, please ask any of the Club officers. Classes will be held also throughout the year depending on the number of those interested in devoting the time.

DUES ARE STILL DUE!

Only ten members have yet to renew their membership in the Club. They are kindly asked to get with the Secretary to make their annual contribution. Anyone interested in joining, whether or not they have already obtained an FCC license, is welcome.

Classes for Technical Class tickets will be held this year and, given a sufficient level of interest, classes for General Class may also be conducted. We are considering innovative ways to provide CW training for those interested.

PKARC

2005

LANSING DAZE COORDINATOR NEEDED

THE PILOT KNOB AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEEDS A NEW COORDINATOR FOR LANSING DAZE TO BE HELD ON JUNE 11 NEAR THE LANSING CITY CENTER. IN THE PAST, PKARC HAS SET UP A PORTABLE STATION AND OPERATED VARIOUS MODES DURING THE EVENT. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW AMATEUR RADIO TO THE PUBLIC. WE NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN WORK WITH THE LANSING DAZE COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE OUR SITE AND IDENTIFY OUR REQUIREMENTS. IF YOU CAN HELP BY COORDINATING PKARC'S PARTICIPATION, PLEASE LET MIKE OR GARY KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER AT OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETING.

HELP US BE A PART OF THE LANSING DAZE CELEBRATION SHOW HAM RADIO AT ITS BEST!

GENERAL CLASS SEMINAR POSTPONED

The General Class license seminar scheduled for April 9-10 has been postponed until August. Due to the low interest expressed in the course, we'll see if more Hams are available and interested in August. Boot Camp will still be held as scheduled in late June. More information will be provided as the event nears in the QRZ.

ARES NOTES-PAUL BACKS, EMERGENCY COORDINATOR LEAVENWORTH COUNTY

This year's severe weather training by the National Weather Service was a little less crowded than last year, but still a big success. Many thanks to Chuck Magaha and Debby Weintraub for setting up the event at the National Guard Armory on Metropolitan Avenue.

At the training event, I signed up six new Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers. Those joining our rolls are: Ed Menard, KD7QOR, Gary Auchard, WB0MNA, Brandon Foister, KC0LPQ, Tom Bryant, KC0LPP, and Glenn Courtwright, KCO-TIE. Many thanks for joining our Amateur Radio Emergency Service group. We now have a total of thirty-five active members.

It's time to get organized

for the upcoming weather. I recommend you take an hour or so to think through what you need and what action would be required when the storms hit. Notice I didn't say, if the storms hit. It helps to take a little time to think through your actions before the season starts and what you will need to have in place.

There is a great deal of information available at the ARRL website. Just pull down the Public Service ladder and click on ARES. Under the ARES header, click on the Public Service Manual.

73s Paul, KC0JQC, Kansas Zone C4 Emergency Coordinator.

Be ready for the storms when they come. Be a part of your local ARES!

**ARES
CORNER**

SEE PAGE SEVEN FOR WHAT YOU SHOULD INCLUDE IN YOUR EMERGENCY READY KIT FOR THE UPCOMING STORM SEASON! IT IS PROVIDED AGAIN, JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH.

LANTERNE ROUGE EVENT COMING UP IN APRIL

The Lanterne Rouge Volunteer Group has requested the assistance of the PKARC once again this year. Time trials take place on 9 April. This will require a couple of more volunteers who should contact Bob Frandsen, KC0TJW, at KC0JTW@arrl.net. A coordination and rehearsal meeting will take place at the Santa Fe Trails Bicycle Shop at 419 Delaware St. at 1830 hours on 12 April.

A second race encompassing approximately 75 miles from Leavenworth to Atchison and back takes place later on 24 April. These two events will be discussed at our April meeting. This will be a great opportunity for those wanting to work a public service event. These events constitute two of the bigger public service events we support each year and your assistance will be greatly appreciated as always.

FROM THE KICKAPOO QRP OPERATING DESK

GARY, WB0MNA

The PKARC started the year with a January meeting program on GPS receivers, their use, system development and configuration over the years plus current and future uses by the public and Ham radio community.

The APRS presentation by Brian Short at the February meeting was extremely interesting and sparked a strong interest among most of the Club members. This program was an expansion on the January meeting program topic and led to the highly successful "Blob" (Tiny Trak 3) building session a few weeks later.

During February, the Club also held its first "Freeze Your Keys" event at Weston Bend State Park. While not as cold as we were expecting the weather to be, it did allow those attending the event to experience operating in less than comfortable outdoor conditions. Fourteen people attended this one day event and had a great meal too!

During the March meeting, there was plenty of interest sparked again by the equipment brought in for "Show and Tell" by Club members. This equipment varied from code oscillators, through vintage tube receivers to modern digital modes. Not a bad showing at all and it goes to demonstrate the vast level of interests and knowledge among the Club members.

So what has this level of activity shown us so far? Plenty!

First, we have seen Club members demonstrate their ability to solder and assemble modern digital devices which will allow others to monitor their location during weather spotting activities. Not a simple task to assemble and program the tracking devices, but every kit built during the "Blob" building day worked right from the start. A total of fifteen people turned out to build or assist during the building session.

Second, we've also learned there are members in the Club that enjoy building various antennas and electronic devices on their own time. This will lead to more meetings with a technical theme, along with the normal business activities. It also demonstrates an area of Ham radio the Club can grow in.

Third, there's a vast level of technical knowledge and skills within the Club membership.

Fourth, we are just beginning to see some of this knowledge being displayed. How can we keep it growing and put to good use?

That is a good question. The answer should be to continue to provide the opportunity for these building sessions and sharing of knowledge and skills among Club members to happen. When a new kit or antenna is built by a Club member, be sure to bring it to the next Club meeting. We will have a "Show and Tell" session at the end of each business meeting. Share with the other Club members the purpose of the device you built, along with any problems and successes you've had with it so far. Who knows, you may spark a new interest for some of the other members and if there is enough interest, we can put together another building session.

Lansing Daze, bicycle races and Field Day are several of the operating events that are just around the corner. Are you and your equipment ready to support these activities? How about the weather spotting events? Could you be ready to go with a few minutes notice and have the right equipment with you in working order? Could you build an antenna from scratch on Field Day morning and make it work for that event? If you share your ideas and methods of operation during these events with the other Club members, we can all learn something to benefit everyone along with the community. Think about it. Are you interested in learning more and sharing your knowledge with other Club members? We're on a very positive roll right now as a Club, so let's keep it going.

If you want some interesting reading, check out Chapter 1 in the 2005 ARRL Handbook. It's title is: "What is

Emergency Ready Kit

2-METER HT

ARES ID CARD

•2-METER MAGMOUNT

ANTENNA AND COAX

EXTRA BATTERIES

EAR-PHONE • APPROPRIATE

CLOTHING

PAPER AND PENCIL • FOOD AND WATER

EXTENDED (72-HOUR) DEPLOYMENT EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

- Snacks • Liquid refreshments • Throat lozenges • Aspirin
- Prescriptions • Toilet articles • First aid kit • Message forms
- Log books • Shelter (tent and sleeping bag) • 3 day change of clothes • Foul weather gear • 3 day supply of water and food • Portable stove; Mess kit with cleaning kit
- Flashlight • Batteries • Candles • Water proof matches • Alarm clock • Toolbox
- Electrical and Duct tape • Soldering iron and solder • Safety glasses • VOM
- Additional Radios, packet gear • Microphones • Headphones • Power supplies, chargers
- RF Connectors • Antennas with mounts • Patch cords • SWR bridge (VHF and HF).
- Extra coax • ARRL Standardized Connectors (Molex 1545)

ABOUT YOUR “READY” KIT

Power -- Your radio 72-hour kit should have several sources of power in it, with extra battery packs and an alkaline battery pack for your HT. For mobile VHF and UHF radios, larger batteries are needed. Gel-cell or deep-cycle marine batteries would be good sources of battery power, and you must keep them charged and ready to go. It is also wise to have alternate means available to charge your batteries during the emergency. You can

charge smaller batteries from other larger batteries. You can build a solar charging device. If you're lucky, you may have access to a power generator that can be used in place of the normal electrical lines. Have more battery capacity than you think you might need. Have several methods available to connect your radios to different power sources.

Gain Antennas -- You can expect to need some kind of gain antenna for your HT, as well as an additional gain antenna that can be used on either your HT or your mobile rig. The extra antenna might be needed by someone else, or your first antenna might break. For VHF and UHF, you can build a J-pole from a TV twin-lead, for an inexpensive and very compact antenna. Have several lengths of coax in your kit, totaling at least 50 feet and

with barrel connectors to connect them together.

Personal -- Include staples: water, or a reliable water filtration and purification system; enough food for three days; eating utensils, a drinking cup and, if needed, a means of cooking your food. Shelter is also important.

Here, you are only limited by the size of your kit and the thickness of your wallet. Some hams plan to use their RVs as shelter, conditions permitting. Other disaster conditions may make the use of an RV impossible, so you should have several different plans for shelter. Light is important psychologically during an emergency. Make sure that you have several light sources available. Various battery-powered lights are available, and propane or gasoline-fueled lanterns are also good possibilities.

ARARAT AMATEUR RADIO SHRINE CLUB

PRESENTS

HAMBASH 2005

Sanctioned by ARRL

Ararat Shrine 5100 Ararat Drive Kansas City, Mo.

SATURDAY, April 16, 2005

Featuring A new series of seminars on the latest in Communication Techniques. Demonstrations on Digital Communications, APRS, Win-link, and perhaps other techniques. Come listen and learn from experts in whatever piques your interest! Seminars will start at 9:00 AM. For the latest information, visit our web site, www.hambash.com.

PRIZES:
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Talk-in 145.13—

ADMISSION TICKETS:	AT DOOR: \$3.00 EACH	IN ADVANCE: 3 FOR \$5.00
Set up 6:00 a.m.	Commercial Exhibit Area	8 foot Trader's Tables
Open to public at 8:00 a.m.	Traders Area	Limited Electricity Available
FREE Parking	Snack Bar	Trader Tables: \$15.00 each
Handicapped Accessible	Seminars and Tech Sessions	Includes 3 admission tickets
Security Officers on Duty	Ladies Hospitality Room	
Hourly Door Prizes	Testing by W5YI	Reserve Tables in Advance
Main Prize Drawing at 1:00 p.m.	Adv. Registration Not Required	
Close at 2:00 .m.		

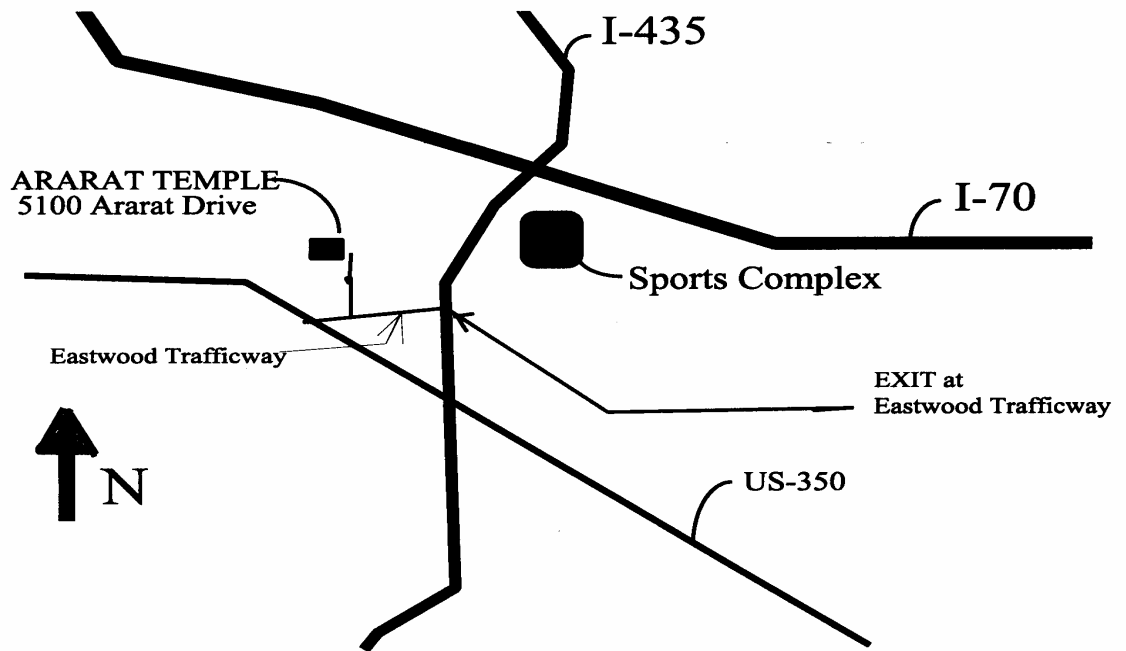
Table Reservations or Information

Steve Dowdy, WJ~'2il
 12411 Olive
 Kansas City, MO 64146
 Phone or Fax: 816 941-3392
 E-mail: [sdowdy @ kc .rr.com](mailto:sdowdy@kc.rr.com)

Advance Tickets –Mail Only SASE to:

Ray Pautz, N~RP
 13 SE 125 Road
 Warrensburg, MO 64093
 Phone 660 747-5002
 E-mail: [pautzrk@ sprintmail.com](mailto:pautzrk@sprintmail.com)

TALK IN 145.13 –



TALK IN 145.13 –

**THE PILOT KNOB
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

P.O. Box 632
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Http://www.pkarc.com

MEETINGS

Date: First Thursday of each month (except for
December)
Time: 7:30 p.m., Central Time
Location: The American Red Cross
525 Shawnee

CLUB OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT MIKE
STEWART, AB0VM**

**VICE PRESIDENT GARY
AUCHARD, WB0MNA**

**SECRETARY/TREASURER/
QRZ**

ED MENARD, KD7QOR

AFFILIATIONS

**THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY
LEAGUE**

**THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
THE LEAVENWORTH COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

The purpose of the club is to further the exchange of information and cooperation among members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual efficiency, to provide assistance to the best advantage in the event of emergency, and to conduct club programs and activities to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio. Anyone interested in the activities of this organization will be eligible for membership. Members must comply with FCC rules and regulations, as well as rules established by the club. Dues are \$20 per year (no extra cost for spouse or minor children who are amateurs).

Editor's Note: QRZ is published monthly and may be quoted in other publications provided a credit line is included and the author (if known) is given acknowledgment. Items related to amateur radio will be advertised free of charge. Articles for publication in QRZ are always welcome and willingly accepted in any form. We reserve the right to edit material as necessary. Please let me know if you experience problems getting your issues of QRZ, or if it is received in a difficult to read state. Members are encouraged to receive their QRZ via E-mail, rather than paper copy. Requests to receive the hard copy version will be honored. Your effort to reduce club expenses will be appreciated.

Comments or suggestions regarding the new QRZ format are welcome and appreciated.

Ed Menard, KD7QOR, QRZ Editor

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