

THE PILOT KNOB AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



QRZ

QRZ VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER, 2005

QST-FROM THE SHACK

By Mike Stewart, ABOVM

Flexibility. Amateurs demonstrated plenty of this quality in the month of September. Hurricane Katrina's aftermath was still getting round-the-clock coverage as we assembled for the September meeting. Junk Box Wars took a back seat to more important concerns, as we relinquished our normal meeting place to the Red Cross. Maybe we'll get an opportunity to try building something from nothing in a future meeting.

As we transition to Fall, it's time once again to select Club officers. Our Nominating Committee is seeking willing volunteers to assume the duties of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. This is your opportunity to step forward and to work for the betterment of PKARC. The election will take place at the November meeting.

Don't forget the annual Buffalo Chip Dinner and Christmas presentation ceremony. Wait, is that right? I meant Christmas Dinner and Buffalo Chip presentation ceremony. We plan to have a great spread of food as in past years. We will present the PKARC Amateur of the Year Award to a deserving individual as well.

Annual dues will be collected. Unlike gas prices, our dues will remain the same for 2006. There's one really nice J-Pole antennas waiting to go home with a Club member at the Christmas party. Maybe we'll have a few other special purposes up our sleeve too.

73,

Mike, ABOVM

Special points of interest:

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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: 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.

OCTOBER MEETING

KANSAS ARRL SECTION MANAGER

Join the rest of PKARC as we welcome Ron Cowan, KB0DTI, ARRL Section Manager for Kansas, as our October guest speaker.

Ron has been a long-time supporter of Kansas amateur radio, and he is a familiar face at many PKARC events, to include Field Day at Tonganoxie. Ron can share insights on ARRL initiatives and the overall future of Ham radio.

We look forward to Ron's visit and his assessment of amateur radio in Kansas. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the ARRL field organization and opportunities to serve your fellow Hams. See you there.

2006 CLUB OFFICERS SOUGHT

The Club Constitution and By-Laws establishes the November meeting as the Club's annual meeting and election. Please make plans to attend as we elect the 2006 officers for PKARC.

Gary, WB0MNA, Dave, KE0DL, and Dick, KD0DJR, have agreed to serve as the 2006 Nominating Committee. Per Club By-Laws, they will establish the ballot for 2006 officers. We will fill four positions by election this coming year: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. We will, therefore, seek four willing nominees to serve as Club officers for 2006. If you are willing to serve PKARC as an officer, please let a member of the Nominating Committee know of your interest.

**CLUB
OFFICERS
NEEDED FOR
2006
ELECTIONS
SCHEDULED
FOR
NOVEMBER
MEETING**

Return of the 224.54 Repeater

Brian Short, KC0BS, informs us that the 224.54 repeater has returned to the air in Kansas City. Signal reports from anyone within 100 miles of Kansas City who has 220 capability will be welcome. Reports should be sent to kc0bs@arrl.net.

The repeater is located in Basehor, Kansas, along with the 145.390 repeater and KOSUN APRS node. It's height is 220 feet with 350 watts ERP and .31 microvolt sensitivity.

If you would like to see continued 220 activity in Kansas City and use this repeater, you might consider a donation at www.k0ham.com.

FROM THE KICKAPOO QRP OPERATING DESK

GARY, WB0MNA

It's that time again. What time is that you ask? It's time for the great Albuquerque Hot Air Balloon Fiesta. This great event is held every year starting the first Friday in October and going all week finishing up the second Sunday in October. The event draws hot air balloons from all over the world. This year there should be approximately 750 balloons in attendance.

You might be asking how this ties into Ham radio. Have you ever tried to communicate with Ham radio from the basket of a hot air balloon at 1,500 feet elevation? Talk about a great location for an antenna and radio. At that elevation you can easily see for at least 100 miles on a clear day. One other thing to consider is the Albuquerque area is already at approximately 5,000 feet elevation, so in reality you would be up somewhere around 6,500 foot elevation gently floating along in the breeze.

What type of operating can you do? That usually depends on the pilot. If the pilot feels it is safe and the radio equipment and antenna can be secured safely where there will not be any injuries on landing, you can probably work HF, VHF and UHF modes.

The antenna is the most challenging aspect of operating from a hot air balloon. The VHF and UHF modes are not hard as you can just use a handheld radio. In fact, many balloon pilots and chase crew members have a Technician Class license. The VHF/UHF radio can easily be used to keep track of the balloon by the chase crew and allow them to meet the balloon at landing, which can be very tricky at times.

One of the problems with operating VHF/UHF from that height is you might be in an area where you can get into two repeaters operating on the same frequency. These two signals will make it difficult to carry on a conversation due to the interference. What a fun problem to have. Another fun thing to do might be to see how far you can reach using a simplex frequency like 146.250 MHz. One hundred plus miles could easily be achieved from that height.

While I'll be flying sometime during the Fiesta, I probably will not try operating any HF. During an event like this you are usually too busy to deal with much radio equipment. I will be operating on VHF though and will let you know the results in a later article.

Till then, I'll be looking down on you, so wave up to me. Gary, WB0MNA

PKARC SUPPORTS LANSING LIONS 5K RUN

Spotty showers greeted six PKARC Hams Saturday, October 1st as they supported the Lansing Lions Club's annual 5K run. Dick, KD0DJR, organized the support at the request of John Bennett, Lions member and a prospective Ham. Five PKARC Hams assisted Dick with the communications support. The operators stationed themselves at key intersections along the course and relayed runner information to race officials.

The weather cooperated for most of the race, and the communications team completed their task about an hour after the race began. Dick provided support at the start/finish line with Ric, KA3LOC; Dave, KE0DL; Mac, W0ROO; KC, KC0OIU; Mike, AB0VM; and Ron, KC0QIG, posted along the course.

John observed that this type of event was good practice in the event of emergencies. The cooperation with local law enforcement and service agencies strengthens the ability of amateurs to provide emergency communications support. Afterwards, several operators took advantage of the pancake breakfast supplied by Chris Cakes. Thanks to all for assisting.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED
FOR HURRICANE KATRINA/RITA
RECOVERY**

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 QRZ format are welcome and appreciated.

Ed Menard, KD7QOR, QRZ Editor

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