

THE PILOT KNOB AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

QRZ

QRZ VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2006

QST-FROM THE SHACK

By Mike Stewart, AB0VM

Happy New Year!

Thanks everyone, for your part in making 2005 successful. On behalf of last year's officers, let me express our appreciation for your support. Gary, WB0MNA, served as VP and led several programs and operating events during the year. We'll miss his presence on the board but know that he'll still be close to the action in 2006. Thanks also to Ed, who carried a significant load as secretary, treasurer, AND newsletter editor. It's unusual that a volunteer will willingly and cheerfully carry a burden like that for a year—without complaint. His recognition as Amateur of the Year was well-deserved. Your club has benefited immensely from both Ed and Gary's service, whether it's immediately apparent from your operating location or not. The 2006 officers—Doug, Eric, Ed, and myself—look forward to sharing another great year with you.

While the officers get most of the attention, it's important to highlight those who serve in other less-visible roles. Dave, Richard, and Doug serve as our weekly net controllers. Martha, Debbie, and Mac, who give us the opportunity to communicate daily by serving as repeater trustees. Don't forget the repeater owners, such as Davis. Think too about your local VE team, who take time to administer exams so no one has to sweat under the eye of an FCC examiner. <shudder> Or Ric, KA3LOC, who makes sure we put on a fine showing in Field Day each year. Countless other operators contribute in ways, large and small, to grow and develop our skills and to provide opportunities. Please take time to thank all of these fine operators on one of the club nets or at a meeting.

As mentioned in past QRZ articles, we have several objectives for the coming year. One I'd like all of us to join together to accomplish is to create new hams. I ask you not to do this solely to make the ranks bigger for numbers' sake, but do so in order to share the many great aspects of our hobby.

This initiative will take some work—classes, instructors, assistants, advertising, and ideas. Let me offer a few concrete suggestions and ask for your help. Wouldn't it be helpful to distribute new ham packets to someone who completes their Tech exam? How about a reference for newly-licensed operators on our web site? Maybe you're good at programming handhelds and could teach this skill at one of the 2006 new ham classes. Quite possibly, you're a whiz with a soldering iron and PL-259 connectors. Whether your interest is building, operating, tinkering, or public service, you have something to offer new hams. Which task will you take on?

PKARC is your club. One of the great things about amateur radio is the range of skills, interests, and people involved in the hobby. We look forward to sharing many accomplishments in the coming year. On behalf of the 2006 board, thank you for choosing us to serve as your leaders for the coming year. We're here to serve, so let us know what you'd like to do.

See you on the bands!

Mike, AB0VM

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Special points of interest:

- Club Meeting - January 6th - Red Cross Center - 7:30pm
- Kids Day - January 8 - 12:00pm to 6:00pm
- Kickapoo QRP ARC "Freeze our Keys" - February 11 - 8:00am to 4:00pm

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. The first testing date for 2006 is scheduled for 24 February. 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.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

KCOVRN

The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club would like to congratulate newly licensed amateur John Bennett, with the callsign **KCOVRN**. John has been a recent guest at club meetings as well as the Christmas party, and passed his Tech exam at the December 16th test session.

Congratulations John! We look forward to hearing you on the air soon.

FROM THE KICKAPOO QRP ARC OPERATING DESK

GARY, WB0MNA

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the second annual "Freeze Your Keys" winter operating event date has been set. Make sure you mark your calendars for February 11, 2006. On that Saturday the Kickapoo QRP ARC will set up for operation from 1400 UTC to 2200 UTC. That's 0800 to 1600 Central Standard Time at the Weston Bend State Park main shelter house. The operation will be SSB and CW mainly on the 40 and 20 meter bands with some contacts made on 17 meters and 6 meters possibly.

If you have a rig you would like to field test under cold weather conditions, feel free to bring it out and put it on the air. We'll be mostly trying to run off of battery and portable power as much as possible. There will be some AC power available, but we'll not be planning on using that except to heat the Chili, Stew and other great food that will be available around noon time.

There will be plenty of hot drinks like hot chocolate and coffee plus there will be enough food to feed a small army of ham operators a great meal.

Last year we had 14 people show up for this one day operating event. Will you be there? Hopefully the answer to that question will be yes. We were able to stay warm and comfortable last year and now that we have some cold weather operating experience under our belts, we can improve on our performance from last year.

We've had two good weekend snow storms recently that would have made great days for this operating event. We should always practice communicating in all types of weather for the potential disaster we could be faced with some day. This event gives us some cold weather experience and fun at the same time.

So, come on out on February 11, 2006 and help us learn and play at the same time plus participate in a great meal at noon.

See everyone at the January 2006 club meeting.

Gary Auchard
WB0MNA

2006 Century Challenge

by Mike Stewart, ABOVM

An ARRL article a few months back got me to thinking. A nearby metro area club transformed itself from an almost extinct organization to one that has over a hundred members. What was once nearly gone now has an active member base and great support for activities. Which got me to thinking, why couldn't PKARC, which is anything but defunct, grow to over 100 members? What would it take to grow PKARC from its present membership of 64 to 100? The answer is surprisingly simple.

You. Them. And Us.

Did you know there are over 200 licensed operators in the Leavenworth-Lansing area alone? How many of them do we pass daily, yet we never know it because they're not members of PKARC, or they don't get on the air? What do we have to offer them, and they to us as we improve our operating skills and make new friends on the air? What if only half of the non-active Leavenworth area hams joined PKARC and got on the air?

What would it take to grow to 100? The answer is rather surprising—just three new members per month. Adding three new members for each page in the calendar is a modest goal. In fact, it only requires each existing PKARC member to bring one-half of a new member in the entire year. Surely this is possible with the talent we have available.

We.

Add to the already licensed hams the new operators we could help get licensed. We have the activities, events, resources, and people to reach the century mark by the end of 2006. We would be a stronger group, and we would benefit from the presence of new talent and new interests in our midst.

You.

Will you help make this happen? Will you contact a friend and invite them to a meeting? Better yet, invite them to your shack for an operating session. Will you bring someone to FYK or Field Day? Will you help get the word out on license study sessions and support new ham classes? Will you make a presentation to a local group about amateur radio? Will you support PKARC public service events to raise our visibility? All of these activities contribute to raising awareness and our membership base.

You, them, and us—we—can grow and make PKARC a stronger club. Reaching 100 is a tall order, but I believe we can achieve it when measured at one-half a piece and three in a month. It starts with YOU.



Christmas Party 2005 Good Food, Great Company



As we closed out 2005, PKARC members gathered on Friday, December 2nd, at the Mid-American Bank's Lincoln Room for the club's annual Christmas party. Over 50 members, guests, and future hams attended. Special guests included Ron Cowan, KB0DTI, our Kansas Section Manager, and Bob Summers, K0BXF, the Kansas Section EC and his YL.

Highlights of the evening included presentation of the 2005 Leavenworth Amateur of the Year award to Ed Menard, KD7QOR. Ed earned the honor for his service as Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor as well as his continued support of PKARC events throughout the year (*Congratulations - Hope I can do as good a job on the newsletter. - DT*).

The annual transfer of the Buffalo Chip Award took place at the dinner, too. Mac, W0ROO, passed the chip to Shawn, KC0LPS. Congratulations Shawn! Mac, W0ROO, and Richard, WA0TJU, received special mention as 2005 recipients of the Thor Award. Let's hope we don't have to bestow that honor on anyone else. Several members collected door prizes including Richard, KA0DJR; Gary, WB0MNA; Roy, KA0PIV, and Bill, W0NYG.

We truly appreciate everyone who contributed the wonderful side dishes. Santa Fe Depot once again provided the main course. Members were greeted by a Christmas train, music, and decorations put together by Emily, KC0PTL. Thanks also to Davis who made arrangements for the Lincoln Room, and we are grateful for Mid-American Bank's continued support through the use of their nice facility.

Ed reports that we did well on membership renewals. Please contact our treasurer, Ed Menard, KD7QOR, if you need to renew your membership for 2006 and mark your calendars for December 1, 2006 for next year's Christmas dinner.

Did Somebody Say "FOX HUNT"???



Keep your eyes (and "ears") open.

Details coming soon.

**THE PLOT KNOB
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

P.O. Box 632
Leavenworth, KS 66048
<http://www.pkarc.org>

MEETINGS

Date: First Thursday of each month
Time: 7:30 p.m., Central Time
Location: The American Red Cross
525 Shawnee
Leavenworth, KS

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - MIKE STEWART, AB0VM
VICE PRESIDENT - DOUG THOMAS, KC5VKG
SECRETARY - ERIC HALL, KC0RUR
TREASURER - ED MENARD, KD7QOR
NEWSLETTER EDITOR - DOUG THOMAS, KC5VKG
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER -
DENNIS PEARSON, KC0TJY

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.

Doug Thomas, KC5VKG, QRZ Editor

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