

QRZ

A Monthly Publication of The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club

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MEETINGS

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

PKARC
Club Officers 2007

President
 Dan Borneman - W9JXZ

Vice President
 Doug Thomas - KC5VKG

Secretary
 John Bennett - KC0VRN

Treasurer
 Ed Menard - KD7QOR

Newsletter Editor
 Doug Thomas - KC5VKG

Public Information
 Dennis Pearson - KC0TJY

QRZ is a monthly publication of the Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club 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 the Editor 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.

Notification of Nominees for Club Officers

The publication of this ballot constitutes public notification of nominees for Club officer positions for Calendar Year 2008 as required by the PKARC Constitution and By-Laws.

Those individuals listed below are running “unopposed” at the present time. The election of officers will take place at the monthly meeting on 1 November.

A member of the Nominating Committee will report this slate to the membership. The President will then open the floor for any additional nominations for each position. If there are no further candidates, a motion will be entertained to accept a motion from the floor for election by acclamation in accordance with the Club By-Laws.

This motion must pass unanimously.

Anyone with a valid FCC amateur radio license and at least twenty-one years of age interested in serving who has been a member of the Club for one year is encouraged to seek office.

President	Dan Borneman - W9JXZ
Vice President	Richard Waeltermann - N0XCM
Secretary	Shawn Phillips - KC0LPS
Treasurer	Evan Strawbridge - WO4AVN



Announcements



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 at 7:30pm. The next testing date for 2007 is scheduled for 26 October. Please notify Martha Auchard, **WBOERI**, 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.



Goblin Patrol Looking for Volunteers - Leavenworth County **ARES** is currently looking for volunteers to assist in the annual Goblin Patrol held on Halloween evening, October 31st. Goblin patrol consists of amateur radio volunteers who patrol local and county "hotspots", areas likely to receive mischievous visitors during the Halloween evening. The Goblin Patrol works hand-in-hand with the Leavenworth County Sheriff's Department, and the Department of Emergency Management in protecting these areas. For more information about the Goblin Patrol, or to volunteer, contact **ARES EC Paul Backs - KC0JQC**, and listen to the weekly nets for more information. You do not need to be an **ARES** member to volunteer.



Yearly Election Of Officers Coming in November - The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club's annual Election of Officers is coming in November. If you plan on attending one Club meeting this year (aside from the Club Christmas Dinner of course), make it this one. Members are strongly encouraged to attend the November meeting. Remember, if you don't attend, you can't vote. (**Note:** per the Club Constitution and Bylaws, should only one candidate be available for each office, the slate *can* be adopted by acclamation). Help make this year's election count. This year's election slate can be found elsewhere in this issue.



Oktoberfest 2006 - October 20th - The *SouthSide ARC* will be holding its annual Oktoberfest Hamfest in Grandview, MO. Doors open 8:00am to 2:00pm. Grandview Middle School, 12650 Manchester Avenue (Same location for over 20 years!!!). Talk-in on 147.12. Admission is \$3 each, or 3 for \$5 at the door (4 for \$5 advance purchase). For more information, visit <http://www.southsidearc.org/> and click on the *Oktoberfest* link.

FROM THE KICKAPOO QRP ARC OPERATING DESK

-- GARY A, WB0MNA



The weather is finally starting to cool down and as I mentioned in my last article now is an excellent time to be working on repair or building a good antenna system for your operations during the cold months ahead.

One of our local hams is in the process of building a hidden HF Vertical antenna. Evan – WO4AVN lives in an area with restrictions on outside antennas and as such he is getting very creative and learning a lot about antennas.

Evan is currently building an HF antenna hidden inside a plastic pipe that will appear to be a flag pole when it's finished. There have been several articles for hidden antennas similar to this in past issues of various ham magazines. They all follow the same idea...nice looking in the yard yet work efficiently on HF. Few neighborhoods have restrictions on flag poles so this is an excellent approach to getting on HF where there are restrictions on outside antennas.

If you happen to live in a neighborhood like this and can't get on HF, talk to Evan and see how he built his system. I'm sure he would be glad to explain his work and show you the end results. Maybe this would make a good program for a club meeting Evan.

The next hamfest on the horizon is the Southside hamfest on October 20 in Grandview Missouri. This is usually a good hamfest with plenty of swap tables and good items to buy, both new and used.

The Joplin hamfest was well attended but the number of swap tables was down a bit this time. This has appeared to be a current trend so far this year. Salina and Dayton were all down a bit on the number of swap tables you normally see. Hopefully this will not deter some of you from attending a hamfest. There always seems to be a hot item to buy at a hamfest or an eyeball QSO with a ham you may have talked to on the air, but never met face to face.

Keep your calendars open for the 4th annual "Freeze Your Keys" winter operating event scheduled for February 9, 2008 at Weston Bend State Park. We can always use a few more hardy operators to come out and join in the fun.

See you at the next club meeting.

Gary A. – WB0MNA



League Notes

Postings from the ARRL



Son of First Ham to Operate in Space to Follow in Father's Footsteps

Richard Garriott, KE5QNX, son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL, will be launching into space and living aboard the International Space Station in October 2008 as a client of Space Adventures. Owen Garriott operated the world's first Amateur Radio Station from space, W5LFL, as part of the Spacelab mission on the space shuttle *Columbia* (STS-9) in 1983; he is on the Astronaut Advisory Board of Space Adventures. Space Adventures is a company that allows private citizens the chance for space travel on Russian Soyuz spacecraft at an estimated cost of \$30-55 million per person. Richard, who is Space Adventures vice chairman, has applied for his grandfather's call sign, W5KWQ.

Richard will be the sixth private citizen to venture into space. According to his Web site, his "main objective for his mission is to encourage commercial participation. By fostering the involvement of individuals, companies and organizations in his spaceflight Richard hopes to demonstrate that there is commercial potential in private space exploration, while furthering the understanding of space. Richard plans to demonstrate this by taking on various commercial projects, corporate sponsors for his mission activities and by helping companies market their products through their association with an actual space mission."

A self-described experienced terrestrial explorer - "I have traveled to all seven continents on adventures that have included tracking mountain gorillas in Rwanda, canoeing down the Amazon, diving in a submarine to the Titanic and trekking Antarctica in search of meteorites" - Richard says on his Web site that he is excited about his trip into space. "Journeying to space has been a dream of mine since I was young. So for me, space exploration was tangible, it was part of my family's DNA. But I was also acutely aware of the costs and complexity that kept it under the purview of the government. There was no imaginable way I was going to get a front-row seat like my father." Richard, 46, is the first American second-generation astronaut. In Russia, Sergey Volkov, 34, a pilot, is set to fly to the ISS as commander next spring. His father, Aleksandr, rocketed into orbit in the 1980s and early 1990s.

A computer game developer, Richard, also known in the gaming world as **Lord British**, was the owner of now-defunct *Origin Systems*. The company is best known for gaming software such as the *Ultima* fantasy computer role-playing game series, *Wing Commander* and *Crusader*. Richard then founded Destination Games, which has since merged with NCsoft where he is an executive producer; his new game, *Tabula Rasa*, is set to be released by NCsoft later this month.

Rosalie White, K1STO, ARRL ARISS Program Manager, said, "With Richard's fame with the general public and Owen's fame in the science industry and with ham radio operators, Richard's planned ARISS educational activities should generate a great deal of interest for ham radio in all ages and types of people. This will be good for Amateur Radio and ARISS. The ARISS Team is looking very forward to supporting his ARISS school goals; we were so pleased to hear that he's already earned his ham license."







Two New Weather Programs for the Weather Enthusiast

Glenn Davis, N3FJP, has authored many logging programs for the amateur radio community. Logging programs such *Amateur Contact Log*, *Field Day Contest Log*, as well as many other contest specific logging programs have become fixtures in many shacks. Now Glenn's fascination with the weather has led him to create 2 new, exciting programs, both for amateur radio operators and the general public: **WXSpots**, and **WXWarn**.

WXSPOTS

WXSpots is software that runs on your PC and connects to a server. All reports of severe weather are relayed to everyone connected. Reports can be screened by State, County or a list of Counties. WXSpots is a tool in the tool chest for SkyWarn operations and those interested in severe weather observations. By its very nature of dependence on the Internet, it can't provide data from a severely affected area. On the other hand, WXSpots can quickly communicate data from those observers just outside it. It also provides the means to help monitor local severe weather as it unfolds with many more observers able to communicate what they are seeing.

WXSpots provides:

-  The ability to disseminate observations quickly and efficiently anywhere.
-  The ability to add the eyes of SkyWarn enthusiasts who aren't Amateur Radio Operators.
-  An automated, historical record of recent observations.
-  Audio alerts that can be specified by the user based on location.
-  A messaging feature to allow for communication with other members of your organization (and other connected users).
-  The ability to keep tabs on current observations without necessarily being near a radio.

WXWarn

It is neat how one thing leads to another. Since WXSpots went on line, watching the reports come in, Glenn got to wondering about where we should be seeing activity, assuming there were WXSpots users on line to report it. (If you haven't already downloaded the WXSpots software, please go to the home page and do that now!)

That unanswered question led to the development of N3FJP's WX Warning Program 1.0. This software is designed to download and parse weather data published on <http://www.weather.gov/alerts/us.rss>. The weather data is displayed based on criteria that you can select.

The data feed at <http://www.weather.gov/alerts/us.rss> is described as experimental, as is this program's ability to properly interpret the data. Data is published to <http://www.weather.gov/alerts/us.rss> approximately once every two minutes, and this program parses that data once per minute, so there can be a several minute delay before alerts are received. For these reasons, alerts received by this software should NOT be considered "real time" information.

System requirements:

WXSpots and WXWarn will run on all flavors of Windows from Windows 95 through Vista. The program requires very little CPU power or RAM and should run just fine on any PC capable of running Windows. If you have an old laptop collecting dust that you would like to use for WXSpots, as long as the PC can connect to the Internet it should be just fine.

To learn more about these two programs, and information on how to download and install, please visit www.wxspots.com, and be sure to read through the FAQ page while you are there! And also check out Glenn's website at www.n3fjp.com to view his wide array of logging/contest software.

THE PLOT KNOB
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 632
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<http://www.pkarc.org>

AFFILIATIONS

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY
LEAGUE
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
THE LEAVENWORTH COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

The purpose of the Pilot Knob Amateur Radio 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).

MEETINGS

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

The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club conducts 2 nets every week, with a 2 meter net every Wednesday evening at 7:30 on the 147.00+ (PL 151.4) repeater, and a 70cm net every Sunday evening at 7:15 on the 444.80+ repeater. All amateurs are welcome to join.



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