

# 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 and Change in Club Dues**

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 acclimation 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.

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

Also up for point of business: With the creation of the open autopatch for the 147MHz repeater, a restructuring of the club dues is now in order. Also, up for consideration is the relocation of the Club's website. One suggestion is the relocation to a low-cost web host. Please plan on attending the November annual meeting to provide your input on these important matters.



# 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 14 December. Please notify Martha Auchard, **WB0ERI**, 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.

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**PKARC Nominating Committee Develops Slate of Officers** - Members of the Pilot Knob ARC Nominating Committee have come up with the slate of candidates for the 2007 Club Officers. The Following are listed for your consideration:

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

As a reminder, the **Annual Meeting**, and **Election of Officers** will be held at the November Meeting, November 1st, 7:30pm at the Red Cross Center, 525 Shawnee, Leavenworth.



**Annual Club Dinner Set** - The PKARC Annual Christmas dinner has been set for Friday, December 7th. Dinner will be located in the Lincoln Room of the Mid-American Bank and Trust, on the corner of 4th and Delaware, downtown Leavenworth. The event kicks off around 6:00pm (*1800 for you military types...hihi - Ed.*). Those attending are asked to park in the parking lot located behind the bank and enter the rear door, at 4th and Cherokee. Meats and drink will be provided, but you are asked to bring a covered side-dish or dessert. Along with the dinner, the 2007 officers will be announced, as well as the Leavenworth County Amateur Radio Operator of the Year, and the passing of the coveted "Buffalo Chip" Award. This will also be the time to pay your dues for the 2008 year. Cost for the dinner is \$2.00/person, not to exceed \$6.00 for family. Look forward to seeing you there.

## FROM THE KICKAPOO QRP ARC OPERATING DESK

-- GARY A, WB0MNA



I've just returned from attending the South Side Hamfest in Grandview Missouri. While this was a good hamfest as usual, it appeared to be following the same trend I've seen at all of the ham fests I've attended this year.

The overall attendance has been good, but the number of swap tables was noticeably down compared to just a year or two ago. The radio gear on the swap tables is still about the same as what you've seen in previous years with some real bargains here and there for those getting there first.

The amount of computer related items seems to be dropping off with less commercial computer dealers having a booth and occasionally an individual seller will have some used laptop type computer to hopefully sell. Not much of the older parts and hardware to build accessories is selling but still being displayed to hopefully find a new home. Most of these items go back home with the seller till the next hamfest.

At a few of the larger ham fests the number of commercial dealers was down a bit from past years and there are probably a host of reasons for that to happen. The need for these dealers to load up half of their store and take it to a one or two day hamfest is no longer as important or necessary to do as in past years. Most of these dealers sell the largest part of their inventory and goods over the phone or via the internet these days. It's cheaper by far than hiring the extra help, paying for gas and hotel rooms plus meals but does little to get the dealer to meet his customer face-to-face.

Another important service missing from commercial dealers these days is the repair service most used to offer on equipment they sold. Not many dealers have a technician on site that can repair the modern radio equipment they current sell.

I recently purchased a new small dual band hand held radio from one of the largest sellers of ham radio gear in the United States. When I received the radio I found it to be defective right out of the box. When I called the dealer their response was "Send it back and we'll send it on to the manufacturer for repair. It will take 4 to 6 weeks to get it back." Of course they also wanted me to pay for the shipping costs to send a radio back to them that was defective new, and the problem could have been discovered before shipping if it had been tested properly before giving it to the UPS man. They no longer have a service technician on site at that location.

My response was simply "Not acceptable! I'll send you the defective radio and you send me a replacement unit from another production run." It took a week to get the defective radio back, have them push the PTT button to find out it had no transmit audio, then ship me a replacement radio. I was out the cost of shipping back to them and I had already paid to have the first one shipped to me too. Not happy campers on this end for sure since other dealers were offering free shipping on the same radio. Probably the last time I do business with that company even though I was offered free shipping on the next item I purchased there. So much for any dealer loyalty when you have service like that. Again, no face-to-face communication between seller and buyer.

## **KQARC Cont'd**

The other problem I didn't mention was I had just sent back to the same dealer another small hand held radio a few days earlier that failed during the warranty period. It went back to the manufacturer and did finally return to me four weeks later. I had purchased this radio at the Dayton Hamvention and both defective radios were of the same brand.

Hopefully these observations are not a sign of the demise of ham radio conventions and ham fests. These events bring a lot of hams together and a good time is usually had by all. We need these type of events to keep the hobby alive. Otherwise it's just a voice you're talking to over the radio, and not someone you may have ever had the opportunity to meet and maybe have a coffee or donut with thus getting to know who that person behind the voice really is.

One last observation on hamfest attendance is that I don't see many youth there participating in the fun and adventure of the ham radio hobby. Where are they? Why don't most of the aging hams bring their grand-kids along and show them what the hobby is all about and maybe spark an interest? It's easy to do and most kids need something to help develop a more rounded view of opportunities today for communicating. It's more than just email, cell phone and message texting.

Don't forget the "4<sup>th</sup> Annual Freeze Your Keys" event scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the shelter house in Weston Bend State Park. Be there and help us enjoy a winter outside operating event and eat some good hot chili and stew. Maybe we'll even have snow again this year. That was fun!

Gary A. – WB0MNA



# League Notes

## Postings from the ARRL



### ARRL DXCC Approves two DXpeditions for DXCC Credit



ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that two 2007 DXpeditions have been approved for DXCC credit. Both the 9U0A operation from Burundi and the D2DX operation from Angola are available for DXCC credit. "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said.

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### FCC's Riley Hollingsworth to Retire in January 2008

Riley Hollingsworth, Special Counsel in the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, announced his retirement this week, effective Friday, January 3, 2008. While his successor has not been named, Hollingsworth was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL: "After about a year of thinking about the 'if not now, when?' question, I decided to retire January 3. I love working for the FCC and I've always had great jobs, but this one involving the Amateur Radio Service has been the most fun and I have enjoyed every day of it. For nine years I've worked with the best group of licensees on earth, enjoyed your support and tremendous FCC support and looked forward every day to coming to work. The Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue without missing a beat, and after retirement I look forward to being involved with Amateur Radio every way I can. I thank all of you for being so dedicated and conscientious, and for the encouragement you give us every day."

THE PLOT KNOB  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 632  
Leavenworth, KS 66048  
<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  
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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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N0KOA**

