



Welcome to the Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club

WEATHER SPOTTING

We've had our county preparatory activities in anticipation of severe weather this spring. First was the seminar at the National Guard Armory on March 9th put on by the National Weather Service. It is essential that a person who is serious about being a weather spotter attend those sessions. They cover the various weather conditions, what dangerous clouds look like, and how they act. Also, they provide guidance on where to be and what to report if you experience severe weather. Large hail, damaging winds, and water over the roads should be reported in addition to seeing a tornado or funnel cloud.

Chuck Magaha, the County Emergency Manager has about 30 volunteers that he refers to as "Volunteers". That core of people are well trained, tested, and most are issued county radios and call signs. Supplementing that group are the amateur radio operators. If you have attended the weather seminar(s) and are willing to respond to severe weather watches and warnings, join the net on 147.000. We have a ham or two who take up residence at the EOC who pass along reports from that net directly into the EOC. This cuts confusion in the EOC.

On the 23rd of March weather spotters assembled at the EOC where most of the "Volunteers" were issued new digital Motorola radios. Their range (with new repeater towers) and capabilities is far greater than the previous hand-held radios that have been in use the past 20 years or so. Each one costs in the vicinity of \$2500 so you know the county can't afford to provide one for everyone who would like to have one!

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Tuesday Nets

7:00 AM 3.920 LSB KS AM Weather Net
12:30 PM 7.253 LSB Central States Tfc Net
5:45 PM 3.963 LSB Missouri Traffic Net
6:00 PM 3.920 LSB KS Weather Net
6:30 PM 3.920 LSB KS Sideband Net
6:45 PM 3.920 LSB Kansas Phone Net
6:30 PM 147.21 Kansas City, KS / WY Co. RACES
6:30 PM 148.15 Civil Air Patrol Net
7:00 PM 3.547 LSB QKS CW NTS Tfc Net
7:00 PM 145.47 Jo. Co. KS Emergency Comm Services Net (PL 151.4)
7:30 PM 3.547 CW QKS SS Slow Speed Net
7:30 PM 28.125 CW NEKCARC CW Net
7:35 PM 145.41 Kansas City ARC Newsline
8:00 PM 147.27 Kansas City Assoc. Blind ARC Net
8:00 PM 148.375 Navy-Marine Corps MARS Net
8:00 PM 443.35 MS-150 Net
8:30 PM 147.09 MO-KAN Council of Amateur Radio Clubs Net
8:30 PM 147.33 TWA Amateur Radio Club Net
9:00 PM 147.375 Ray/Clay Amateur Radio Net
10:00 PM 3.547 CW QKS CW NTS Tfc Net

DUES

If you have not paid your dues, please see the Treasurer! Or mail them to:

The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club 4501 Commercial Place Ste 101B Leavenworth, KS 66048

AREA EVENTS

- April 1 Pilot Knob March meeting—7:30 PM Red Cross 525 Shawnee, Lvn, KS
April 3 & 10— Douglas County Technician Class/Licensing (dhinds2005@yahoo.com)
Apr 17 - Ararat Amateur Radio Shrine Club HAMBASH 2010 Ararat Shrine
April 24— 2010 CGSC Time Trials at Round Prairie Rd, Lowemont. Need volunteers!
April 25th - Joseph Sheehan bike ride. Need several volunteers
May 22 - Lonestar Bike Ride Brian Short, KC0BS - 913-638-7373 - kc0bs@arrl.net
Sep 19, 2010 - Bikers for Babies (Kansas Speedway) Matt May, KC4WCG - 913-384-6549 - <matthewmay@kc.rr.com>
October 2nd 2010—Annual SET
July 23rd 2011—Kansas City DX Club convention, Leavenworth, KS

2010 VE Testing Dates

- o February 26
- o April 30
- o June 25
- o August 27
- o October 29
- o December 17 Last chance for this year!

If we don't have any callers to take a test by mid-week leading into the testing date, the testing session will be cancelled for that month.

If by chance we have several people interested in testing during one of our off months, we may be able to put together a testing session to accommodate them. **BE SURE TO BRING AN EXTRA COPY OF YOUR LICENSE IF GOING FOR GENERAL/EXTRA CLASS LICENSE.**

All testing sessions will be held at the Red Cross at 7:00 p.m.

Contacts for a test are:

- o Martha Auchard - 913-772-7350
- o Gary Auchard - 913-772-7350
- o Dave Phillips - 785-876-3074

Or any of the other qualified VE's that someone might talk to about testing.

Announcements pertaining to testing will be given during the weekly local 145.330, 147.000 two meter and on the 444.800 repeater nets.



We have had several outstanding programs in recent months, and you are invited to join us at our next Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club meeting on April 1st. The program will be on Logging Software!

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.



MORE FUN?

Lake Perry Dam race series March 2010

We make a difference! When several bikers collided during the first race, amateur operators were on the spot to assist in obtaining assistance, and in coordinating with the race officials on where the injured person was taken.



FROM THE KICKAPOO QRP ARC OPERATING DESK

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Where did it all start? That's probably a pretty vague question. The topic of the question I'm referring to concerns my venture into the world of electronics and later on ham radio. The answer to that is 'A long, long time ago but not in such a far, far away place. I got my start into the fascinating world of electronics in Atchison Kansas where I grew up. The time was somewhere in the mid to late 1950's when I was about 9 or 10 years old and saw an advertisement in a Popular Science magazine for an electronics kit. This kit said I could easily build several different radios and listen to people talk from foreign countries. Just the thing to inspire a kid that was part of a family that didn't even have a TV set.

I probably pestered my dad for several weeks or months until he finally saw that I wasn't going to give up until he spent the \$16.95 plus shipping and handling to buy this box of mysterious radio components.

Of course back then \$16.95 was a lot of money so I'm sure he had to make sure I really wanted this kit and it wasn't just some toy that I would lose interest in after a few days. I guess my constant asking for the kit finally convinced him and he broke down and ordered the kit. Being 9 or 10 I was excited knowing the kit was on the way but it took an awfully long time for it to arrive. Probably 2 or 3 weeks if I remember correctly, but it did finally show up at the front door after what seemed like an eternity.

The electronics kit turned out to be everything I thought it would be and more. The first circuit I built was a code practice oscillator. The kit was designed around a 1T4 Pentode tube for most of the circuits and ran off of a 1.5 volt 'D' cell battery for the tube filament, and a 45 volt battery to power the 'B+' voltage needed for the plate of the tube.

All of the parts were mounted on yellow pieces of plastic that plugged into a 12 inch square piece of peg board. First you placed a template on top of the peg board then plugged in the indicated components and attached the clip on wires to make up the circuit. Add a little DC power from the batteries and an antenna and ground and you were in business. Pretty simple process and believe it or not it worked pretty much as described.

The only problem with the whole kit was that eventually the batteries ran down and you couldn't make anything work until you bought new batteries. Unfortunately, I didn't have much money back then and I probably only bought one set of replacement batteries. In short, my new hobby and potential career in electronics was a bit short lived.

That all changed early one Sunday morning a few years later when I happened to sneak into my father's desk and found the 6 transistor AM radio that used a single earphone to listen with. This was when transistor radios were first coming out and I was not allowed to play with this expensive item. I was happily enjoying the local AM radio station music when all of a sudden a loud signal just about broke my eardrum. The strange voice on the radio was saying "CQ, CQ, CQ, Whiskey Zero Empty Beer Bottles calling CQ, anyone around today?" I couldn't hear anyone answer this strange voice but every few minutes the voice would come back on and make comments to someone using a strange language I didn't understand and telling about his radios system and such. I was hooked again and had to find out what radio stuff this person had so maybe I could see it up close.

Long story short, I figured out it was a man that lived about a block south of my house and had a big antenna and tower behind his house. I was pretty shy back then and afraid to go knock on his door because someone told me he was a weird person.

A few weeks later I happened to be flying my kite in the yard of a neighborhood friend when it somehow became tangled up in that big antenna on top of the tower. Now I had no choice, I had to knock on that door or forever lose my only kite. I knocked on the door and told the man about the kite stuck on his antenna and he kind of laughed and said he could get it down for me. He did manage to do that and that's when I asked him what the tower and antenna was for. He said to follow him down into a small room in the garage and he would show me.



Long story short, I figured out it was a man that lived about a block south of my house and had a big antenna and tower behind his house. I was pretty shy back then and afraid to go knock on his door because someone told me he was a mean person.

A few weeks later I happened to be flying my kite in the yard of a neighborhood friend when it somehow became tangled up in that big antenna on top of the tower. Now I had no choice, I had to knock on that door or forever lose my only kite. I knocked on the door and told the man about the kite stuck on his antenna and he kind of laughed and said he could get it down for me. He did manage to do that and that's when I asked him what the tower and antenna was for. He said to follow him down into a small room in the garage and he would show me.

What I saw in that room was a full blown home built AM radio station that he called his ham radio station. He turned everything on and listened for a few minutes then contacted a ham in California. He let me talk for a couple of minutes and that's all it took.....I was totally hooked. From there I managed to learn more about electronics, get my own ham license and start trying to operate in every area available in the hobby for me to operate in. I've worked AM, FM, SSB, DX, Satellite, Fast Scan TV, QRP, building my own equipment and the list goes on. It's a hobby I've been into and totally enjoyed now for over 45 years.

Later on when my mentor 'W0EBB' died I started the Kickapoo QRP ARC and managed to get his call as the club call. End of story? Not quite.

Earlier this week I happened to run across a picture of that very first electronics kit. It was in a museum somewhere that I found on-line. The museum was all about electronic devices and equipment that were used over the years. Until I saw that picture I couldn't remember the name of that kit and had no idea what it was called.

I happened to go on-line to eBay and low and behold found one of those electronic kits advertised. I managed to win the bid and the kit showed up in today's mail. I couldn't believe it but the kit was totally complete to include the original box it came in and was in excellent condition. The only thing missing was the dry cell batteries which I'm sure were long ago dead and gone. I guess I'm still buying batteries after all these years if I want to play with my new 55 year old toy again.

It's not often you manage to find a toy you played with in 1955 in good working condition, but somehow fate brought this gift back into my life. I wonder if this kit can still teach me something about electronics. I'm sure it will bring back a lot of good memories and hopefully I won't let all of the magic smoke out of some of the components when I finally power up one of the circuits.

Life is good at the Kickapoo QRP Operating Desk right now. Time to move some of these modern radios off to the side and get back to some of the basics of radio I learned over 50 years ago. Maybe this kit and a few other more modern kits I happen to have would make a good meeting topic sometime for the PKARC. I'm sure it would be fun and possibly inspire other club members to buy a kit of their own and try learning how this ham radio stuff really works. That seems to be an area a lot of current members are a bit weak in these days. I'd really love to share the fun of building with anyone interested. After all, I've been playing in electronics now for 50 years and I'm still having fun. Not many people can probably say that but I really mean it. I always seem to be learning something new and interesting. What a great hobby.

Gary Auchard – WB0MNA

Minutes of PKARC Club Meeting
4 March 2010

1. There were 23 people present.
2. There is \$523.07 in the treasury after paying the bills that included Tax preparation, KS Not for Profit fee, phone and electric for the repeater station.
3. NOXCM Encouraged members to pay their dues if not done already.
4. Gary WB0MNA reported that they made about 100 contacts for Freeze Your Keys and have received 25 qsl cards so far. DX contacts were Ireland and Slovenia. A group of scouts from Independence stopped by and participated.
5. KA0DJR reports no news for ARES. For Emergency Management, weather spotter training on March 9th and "800 Radio" training on March 23.
6. Ric KA3LOC reported that MARS has terminated their operations for the Haiti earthquake.
7. It was announced that Field Day is coming up on 26/27 June.
8. Martha WB0ERI reported one person was tested for General Class at the last testing session (and passed!).
9. Doug KA0VVJ reports that there are more and more sunspots showing up on the sun which means better HF communications.
10. Alan KC0MCE reported that the American Legion Riders are having a ride on April 24th and are looking for donations.
11. Bruce KC0RRS gave a thorough presentation on his digital scanner.
12. Next months presentation will be on computerized logging programs.

Notes taken by KA0DJR and NOXCM—Thanks guys!

Submitted

Kelly Stanfield KD0IWM

Secretary



Contest Corral *National Contest Journal* AM/PM times are local. UTC dates and may be different than calendar date in North America. No contest activity on 30, 17, 12-meters.

Refer to the contest Web sites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

QCWA Spring QSO Party -- CW/Digital/SSB, sponsored by the Quarter Century Wireless Association from 1800Z Mar 31-1800Z Apr 1. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 1.810, 3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.050, 28.050; Phone -- 1.845, 3.890, 7.244, 14.262, 21.365, 28.325

Missouri QSO Party -- CW/SSB, sponsored by the Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society of St. Louis (BEARS) from 1800Z Apr 7-0500Z Apr 8 and 1800Z-2400Z Apr 8. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 40 kHz from band edge and 1.810; Phone -- 1.850, 3.980, 7.280, 14.280, 21.380, 28.310 kHz

Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party -- all modes, sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society from 0001Z Apr 7-2359Z Apr 15. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 1.830, 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030, 28.030; SSB -- 1.970, 3.970, 7.270, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370

Montana QSO Party -- Phone/CW/Digital--sponsored by the Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club from 2300Z Apr 13 through 2300Z Apr 15. Frequencies: 160 meters-70 cm

Georgia QSO Party -- CW/SSB, sponsored by SECC and SEDXC from 1800Z Apr 14-0359Z Apr 15 and 1400Z-2359Z Apr 15. Frequencies: 80-10 meters

Michigan QSO Party -- CW/SSB, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z Apr 21-0400Z Apr 22. Bands: 80-10 meters. Frequencies: CW -- 45 kHz from band edge; Phone (MHz) -- 3.825, 7.200, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450

EA QRP Contest -- CW, sponsored by the EA QRP Club. From 1700Z Apr 21-1300Z Apr 22 in four parts (see Web site). Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: QRP and QRPP

Florida QSO Party -- sponsored by the Florida Contest Group from 1600Z Apr 28-0159Z Apr 29 and 1200Z-2159Z Apr 29, 20 hours max, work FL stations. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 35 kHz from band edges, Phone -- 7.260, 14.260, 21.335, and 28.485, no 160 or 80 meters, VHF/UHF

Nebraska QSO Party -- CW/SSB/Digital, sponsored by the Heartland DX Association 1700Z Apr 28-1700Z Apr 29. Frequencies (MHz): 160-2 meters; CW -- 1.805 and 35 kHz above band edge, Novices/Technicians -- 10 kHz above band edge; Phone -- 1.915, 3.865, 7.265, 14.265, 21.365, 28.465, 146.460

Old-Old-Timers Club QSO Party -- CW/SSB, from 0000Z Apr 28-2359Z Apr 29. Frequencies: 80-10 meters.

QRP To The Field -- Run to the Border -- CW, 1500Z Apr 28 to 0300Z Apr 29. Frequencies: 40-10 meters. Categories: SO, MO-QRP (Fixed, State Line, Taco Bell). Exchange: RST + S/P/C or TB for Taco Bell stations

TRIVIA ANYONE?

NEWINGTON, CT, May 16, 2005--It might have been Friday the Thirteenth, but it was a lucky day for Morse code--and particularly for veteran CW contest ops Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller, K6CTW. During a May 13 appearance on NBC's Tonight show with David Letterman the pair was able to pass a message using good old fashioned Morse code more rapidly than a pair of teenaged text messengers equipped with modern cell phones.

Notice from the ARRL

We're pleased to tell you that the ARRL Executive Committee has approved the holding of an ARRL approved Operating Specialty Convention (W0DXCC Convention) on July 23, 2011 in Leavenworth, KS under the sponsorship of the Kansas City DX Club.

The sunspots were roaring and the Old Dxr was working DX night and day.

The faithful XYL had had it with his QRZing and blew her stack.

"DX DX DX - thats all you ever think about!" she groaned

"Why I'll bet you don't even remember our wedding date!!

"I mostly certainly do" was the immediate reply.

"It was June 14th, 1958 - Thats the night I worked the XT1, the CRØ, and the AC6!! -- By AC6V

VE Bits



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 7:00pm.

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. Bring an extra copy of your license if applying for a General or Extra license.

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. Also, if you have any questions about testing, or how to become a Volunteer Examiner, contact Martha.

NEW!

As the month of March has equal hours of daylight and darkness we see the best of all round propagation on the High Frequency Bands . Even without the benefits " SUN SPOTS " we find temperature inversions making the night time hours a prime time for long distance contacts , and vertical polarization do really well ... 160 Meters , 75 Meters really go for the long hops at sundown .. 60 Meters is open most days & evenings now ... 20 Meters open all time for ALL THE BIG GUNS !!!! With beams and 1 K.W> Amps.... 17 - 15 - 12 - 10 - 6 - Meters are still work good for the QRPP and poor folks with ordinary rigs ... GOOD D-X C U Down the log de Mac W0ROO

Calling All DX Chasers

Last month the question was asked if anyone was really paying much attention to this page on DX, the page on Contesting, and the page on Special Events.

The few responses I received said anyone with a great interest in those topics would probably obtain their information from another source. I don't know how representative those comments were. However without some additional encouragement to maintain those pages, I suspect that I'll not take a lot of time to develop them in the future! We could continue with any or all of those pages if there is interest.

The QRZ is YOUR newsletter and should reflect the needs of the readers, and I'm most happy to do that—if I know what you enjoy, or would like.

Feedback is essential.

ED

SPECIAL EVENTS

Apr 1-Apr 6, 1600Z-0400Z, Sevierville, TN. 470 Amateur Radio Group, W4H. Easter QSO Party. 28.400 14.240 7.235 3.830.

Apr 3, 1200Z-1930Z, Raleigh, NC. Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, N4C. 38th Annual Raleigh Hamfest and ARRL North Carolina State Convention. 14.235 7.235.

Apr 9-Apr 10, 1430Z-2330Z, Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Historical Society, W1MGY. 98th anniversary of the Titanic voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033.

Apr 10, 1500Z-2000Z, Pine Bluff, AR. Pine Bluff Amateur Radio Club, K5DAK. Railroadiana -- Commemorating the 819 Steam Locomotive. 14.250.

Apr 17-Apr 25, 1400Z-2300Z, Hot Springs Village, AR. Village Amateur Radio Club, W5HSV. 40th Anniversary of Hot Springs Village, AR. 21.240 14.240 7.240 3.940

Apr 23-Apr 25, 1800Z-1800Z, Henderson, KY. Tri-State Amateur Radio Society, W4A. 200th Birthday of John James Audubon. 21.290 18.150 14.290 7.190

Apr 24, 1400Z-2200Z, Tin Top, TX. Tri-County ARC and ARC of Parker County, W5C. 1st Activation Campbell Island. 28.350 21.350 14.250 7.250

Apr 24, 1600Z-2300Z, Petaluma, CA. Sonoma County ACS and Sonoma Mountain Repeater Soc, K6P. Butter & Egg Days Parade, honoring Petaluma as the Egg Capital of the World. 21.290 21.045 14.280 14.045 146.91

Apr 24-Apr 26, 1400Z-0559Z, Springfield, IL. Sangamon Valley Radio Club, N9L. Boy Scouts of America Lincoln Trail Hike. SSB 14.225 7.225 14.030 7.030.

Apr 30-May 2, 1300Z-2300Z, Barry, IL. Hannibal (MO) Amateur Radio Club, K9P. United States Practical Shooting Association Event. 14.265 7.265

USEFUL REFERENCES

QRZ—Call sign database and on-line practice tests: <http://www.qrz.com/site.html>

QST—Monthly ARRL Monthly Membership Journal: <http://www.arrl.org/qst/>

FINDU—Locate anyone with an APRS— (insert the desired call sign in lieu of KC0VRN):
<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?call=kc0vrn>

Contest and Special Event listings courtesy of the Amateur Radio Relay League, www.arrl.org. DX listings courtesy of the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin, www.papays.com/opdx.html. Due to space limitations, not all listings from the sources are provided; only those that may be of general interest. Additional information and listings may be obtained from the respective websites. The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club (PKARC), the QRZ, or it's editor make no guarantees to the accuracy of the information provided.

Contest abbreviations - SO -- Single-Op, M2 -- Multiop -- 2 Transmitters, MO -- Multi-Op, MS -- Multi-Op, Single Transmitter, MM -- Multi-Op, Multiple Transmitters, AB -- All Band, SB -- Single Band, S/P/C -- State/Province/DXCC Entity, HP -- High Power (>100 W), LP -- Low Power, QRP (5 W or less), Entity -- DXCC Entity.

MEETINGS

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



AFFILIATIONS

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

AREA REPEATERS	PL TONE	TRUSTEE
145.330(-)		NOKOA
147.000(+)	151.4	WBOERI
444.800(+)	151.4	WOROO
442.350(+)	107.2	NOMIJ

LOCAL NETS	DATE - TIME - REPEATER
ARES Info and Training:	Sun. - 7:30pm - 147.000
PKARC Net:	Wed. - 7:30pm - 147.000
ARES Net:	Thur: - 7:30pm - 145.330
MAC Net:	Sun: - 7:00pm - 444.800

**We're on the
 Web
www.pkarc.net**

The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club
 4501 Commercial Place Ste 101B
 Leavenworth, KS 66048
www.pkarc.net

