

Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club • KSØLV • Leavenworth, Kansas • EM29 • Volume 20 - No. 6 - Jun, 2024

# Welcome to the Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club From the President of the PKARC

I am sure you will hear from others in this newsletter concerning Hamvention and the Four Days in May Conference that we recently attended. This was my second year to attend each of the events. I hope that anyone that can make arrangements to attend in the coming years do so at least once. Steve WA0SRS suggested possibly taking a bus or van load of people as a club event. If there is enough interest we might consider trying just that.

The FDIM event is primarily centered on QRP operation and the latest equipment, but also SOTA, POTA and other portable ops. A wealth of information is provided by seasoned operators and manufactures. If anyone is interested, many of the presentations are or will be available for viewing online. On vendor night many new products are introduced and available to purchase, this has been a weakness for me....more to come on that later. There is also a kit build session and homebrew competition of some very impressive entries. Very nice prizes are given away too.

Hamvention this year had a record setting attendance of 35,877 people from around the world. Now that is a Hamfest, with acres of new and used equipment, some of it is indoors. I had roughly 12,000 steps in each day just trying to observe everything, I know I missed several booths and at least one small building. Various seminars are scheduled throughout each day. Multiple food trucks provide a wide variety of cuisine and refreshments. Oh and at least one ATM machine with a long line. All in all just and amazing gathering of like -minded people drooling and spending money and I was one of them. So plan to experience these events when you can.

Thanks to Gary and Martha during the trip I made my first SOTA activation from the highest point in Ohio, Campbell Hill... It sure makes you wish there were some summits in Kansas!

Now for current events... we have our ongoing Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air activations, until June 16<sup>th</sup>. I hope that as many members as possible will participate. This is a great opportunity to tune up your activating skills and equipment for Field Day. As mentioned before we are the only club in the state of Kansas, which means the hunters will be looking for us. Scheduling and logging your activations are easy. We will review this again at the club meeting and if you have questions contact Scott K2SCT or myself.

Field Day is June 22-23, watch for notices concerning signing up for meals at Field Day. We will have a build session meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup>, primarily for learning to tune your antennas and Field Day prep.

I am very impressed and please that we continue to have new contacts via our up-to-date website, thank you Rick and to others that add interesting content.

73,	
Steve	
WØSER	

<b>MEETING INFORMATION</b>	MAILING INFORMATION
First Thursday of the Month	The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club
Next Meeting: 06 Jun 2024	34058 167th Street
Time: 7:00 p.m., Central Time	Leavenworth, KS 66048
Location: Pilgrim Community Church	www.PKARC.org
500 Arch St, Leavenworth, KS 66048	

# From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

This month's activities were mostly centered around the Hamvention held in Xenia, Ohio. This great event is always a lot of fun, and you get to see all the newest ham radios and accessories being introduced to the market.

We usually go to Fairborn, Ohio and spend the week there doing various activities. This year was no exception. We arrived on a Sunday afternoon and relaxed from the long drive out. The following day, Monday, we visited the Carillon Historical Park. This is in Dayton which is not far from where we stay in Fairborn, Ohio. This is a very interesting park, well worth spending a day at. This park displays a lot of the history of the Dayton area including National Cash Register – NCR, which has a huge display of the various cash registers they've made over the years. There are too many things to see to tell you about in this newsletter article, but you can look them up on the internet for more info.

The next day we spent at the National Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB. This is a wonderful place to visit and plan on easily spending the whole day there seeing all the various aircraft on display. It is quite impressive and includes things like Airforce One aircraft from Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy which you can walk through and see what they were like. Again, there is not enough room to tell you in this newsletter so look them up on the internet. Better yet, go visit and see history in real life.

The next morning, we had breakfast at the Clifton Mill which dates to the early 1800's. The food is great along with the environment. After breakfast, we drove up to Campbell Hill which is the highest point in Ohio. There we set up our ham radio gear and activated this as a SOTA summit. We didn't stay long as it was raining lightly, but we did get enough contacts to qualify the summit. On this activation we introduced SOTA activating to Steve – WØSER, and he was able to get his first SOTA activation.

On Thursday, the ham radio activities for us started with an all-day seminar at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn. This event is called Four Days In May – FDIM and is an annual event held in conjunction with Hamvention. Great info was shared at the seminars plus that evening, there was a QRP Vendor night where vendors sold their wares, and a lot of good conversation was had.

On Friday we spent the day at the Hamvention where it was raining lightly in the morning. By noon the rain was gone so we were able to cover all the commercial dealers and most of the tables in the flea market. This event is so large that it will wear you out walking around trying to see everything, but it is well worth the effort. That evening we attended QRP Club night at the Holiday Inn and saw all the activities they offer, plus a building contest.

On Saturday we returned to the Hamvention for another day of searching for that one item you didn't know you needed until you spotted it. The weather was good and the food at this location is so much better than what we had to contend with at the old Hara Arena location that no longer exists.

On Saturday evening, we had a banquet with the FDIM group and had a good time visiting and just wrapping up our 2024 Hamvention activities. There is so much to tell you about all the Hamvention activities that I could not do it justice in a short article like this. It is something you just must see in person to understand how much fun it is to attend.

Field Day is our next PKARC activity so start getting your gear in shape for that annual fun event.

See you at the weekly club breakfast gatherings and monthly meetings. Gary Auchard - WØMNA

### Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes May 2, 2024

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting of the PKARC was held on May 2nd, at Pilgrim Community Church. It began at 7:00 pm and was presided over by President Steve Rice (WØSER), Keith (KFØKBC) VP, Martha (WØERI) Treasure and Roxann (KZØIMO) secretary.

#### Roll Call

Members in attendance included: Gary (WØMNA), Martha (WØERI), Randy (KØAWW), Keith (KFØKBC), Scott (K2SCT), John (KFØLNZ), Ron (NØCALL), Loren (KBØYME), Emily (KFØGNS), Scott H (NØZB), Roxann (KZØIMO), Jeff (KAØARW), Max (KØMDP), Rick (NJØP), Steve (WØSER), Guy (KFØKOS), Thad Brzustowicz (KFØPXE) and guest Sean Fryman (NOCALL).

The meeting opened with Introductions of those present.

Martha gave a treasures report. Roxann gave thanks for the Sympathy card for her mother in law.

Next Steve (WØSER) presented the ARRL video about GOTA stations. Highlights is it allows visitors to our Field Day setup to participate on the air. The points system for the station is different than the others. Steve said he would like to see the GOTA station do RTTY, CW, FT8 and SSB.

Next the floor was given to Randy to discuss Field Day 2024. He asked for volunteers. Martha said she would pick up dinner. She estimated it to be in the \$8-\$10 range. Scott said he would send out a sign-up genius. Jeff L said he is willing to do publicity. Rick said he would invite city and county officials etc. He verified that the Field Day Locator is on the AARL website. Steve R said he had band pass filters for 10, 15,20, 40 and 80m. Roxann said she was willing to set up the display tent next to the GOTA station. Rick discussed briefly the Wi-Fi network and reminded the group to update your logging software (same as last year)

Scott (K2SCT) was given the opportunity to discuss Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air. It runs from June 1-16<sup>th</sup>. He showed us how to log in, enter our information and to make changes. He encouraged us all to get on the air to support and promote this event.

Steve then asked the group what was on their workbenches which led to a reminder of the June 20<sup>th</sup> build session where some antenna tunning will be taught and demonstrated.

Lastly, Rick reminded the group that JARA will have its annual meeting at FD. Roxann chimed in and said that SHARC would also have a quick annual meeting.

#### Adjournment

Keith made a motion to close meeting. Randy seconded. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Roxann Kosmicki, KZØIMO

www.pkarc.org

### **ARES and Emergency Management Links**

Leavenworth County Emergency Management: https://www.lvsheriff.org/emergency-management

Leavenworth County ARES: https://ks-lv-ares.signaleer.us

ARRL ARES Information: http://www.arrl.org/ares

## **ARRL ARES Manual:**

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARESmanual2015.pdf

### **KCHEART Net Information**

The KCHEART Net takes place on the first Monday of the month. If that falls on a holiday, it will be delayed until the next week. The frequency is 443.500 with positive offset and 151.4 tone.

This repeater is located at the Kansas City VA hospital. Please feel free to check in from time to time. Participation is never mandatory, but always appreciated!



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# Detailed Net<br/>Information:Wednesdays<br/>• PKARC Club Net on 147.00 at 7:30pmSteve Stalker (WAØSRS) as Net Control



You are always welcome to discuss swap-meet style items on the PKARC Wednesday Net

 <u>Thursdays</u> - Leavenworth County ARES Net on 147.00 at 7:30pm Dick Quinlan (KAØDJR) as Net Control.
<u>Sundays</u> - JARA UHF Fusion Net on 444.800 at 7:00pm Rick Reichert (NJØP) as Net Control
And also the ARES Information and Training Net on 145.33 at 7:30 pm Brian Resch (NBØR) as Net Control

All repeaters use a 151.4 Hz sub-audible tone

# Jarbalo Amateur Radio Association

Activate WIRES-X on your UHF radio. Experiment and have fun!

President: Max Pfrimmer – KØMDP Vice President: Steve Rice – WØSER Trustee: Rick Reichert – NJØP

#### Sunday 7 pm Net <u>Agenda</u> Pre-Net Admin NTS Traffic Check-ins Picture-of-the-Week

Picture-of-the-Wee Announcements Training Comments Adjourn



#### The fastest 1/2 Hour on Ham Radio!

The JARA Annual Meeting will take place at Field Day, June 22nd. Voting members are all who have checked into at least one Sunday evening JARA net since the last Annual Meeting. The agenda includes: Year-in-Review, report of assets, financial report, 2024-2025 Action Plan, and election/ installation of officers.

#### The Fastest Annual Mtg in Ham Radio! The club trustee will review highlights since the annual report will have already been published by June 17th, and we'll proceed

directly to the election. We need candidates! The open offices are President and Vice President. Nominate a fellow JARA member, or offer yourself to be elected by providing the name and recommended office to Rick-NJØP no later than June 15th. The slate will be announced on the June 16th JARA Sunday net. Pi-Star vs WiresX. Good news - The new Pi-Star configuration is fast and reliable. Bad news - It interferes with over-the-air WiresX connections and transmissions of digital pictures. Whenever someone transmits through the repeater, the openSPOT replies with an ID transmission, obscuring digital telemetry. It ID's as op SPOT or open SPOT. SharkRF has been asked to assist with troubleshooting. Plan B is to identify another Pi-Star hotspot solution. Our current configuration is a SharkRF openSPOT (original blue version) located at the home of Keith-KFØKBC across from our repeater site. The openSPOT is directly connected to the Internet via ethernet. Its proximity to the repeater allows it to receive a clear repeater signal and its 23 mW transmitter provides a full-scale signal to the repeater. Since our connection to Pi-Star no longer makes a double-hop through the WiresX network, there is now almost no latency. Hopefully, by mid-June, we'll have the issue resolved and we can resume the Picture-of-the-Week on Sunday nets.



Jarbalo Amateur Radio Association Sunday Evening UHF Net Roster W0ROO/R 444.800 MHz + C4FM DN T:00 R:00

May-2024	Name	05	12	19	26
KØAVN	Dave			π*	π*
KØAWW	Randy			Х	
KAØDJR	Dick	Х		Х	
ABØGD	Gregg	Х			
ĸzøimo	Roxann			Х	
KFØKBC	Keith	Х		NCS	LOG
KFØKOS	Guy	Х	Х		Х
KØMDP	Max				π*
WØMNA	Gary	Х	π*	π*	π*
NJØP	Rick	NCS	X	Х	NCS
KD7QOR	Ed	Х	Х	Х	
NBØR	Brian	ANCS	Х	ANCS	Х
KFØROB	Rob	Х			
WØSER	Steve	LOG	NCS	LOG	
WAØSRS	Steve	Х	Х	Х	
KEØSYO	Vic		Х	Х	ANCS



# Amateur Radio Emergency Service<sup>®</sup>

Section Manager: Ron Cowan, KBØDTI Emergency Coordinator (Dist 4, Zone C): Rick Reichert, NJØP

See list of Assistant Emergency Coordinators and new opportunities on KS-LV-ARES.signaleer.us on the About Us -> Leadership page.

#### SET PREPARATION

RGENCY

The 2024 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) should already be on your calendar for Saturday morning, October 5, 2024. If not, please reserve 0700 – 1200 hours on your calendar that day for SET participation. We need you. All are welcome to participate.

On April 14th, we conducted the first in a series of tests aimed at "shaking out" various components of the SET in October. The April event tested our capability to use the Golden-99 pre-programmed channel list and to effectively use a cross-band repeater. The test was a fabulous success. See "Cross Band Repeater Test" in the News section of thePKARC.org web site.

#### FIELD DAY PREPARATION

Field Day is a fun 24+ hour outdoor operating contest that serves a very lofty purpose: An emergency prep exercise. As you pack up for FD24, think about formalizing your pack list so you have a handy reference if you should be called upon for an actual incident. It's easy to forget the little item(s) that are vital for operating.

A starter Pack List is available on our web site: Search for "What's in your Field Day Kit?" The list is also in our Groups.io Field Day folder.

The list not only ensures you have everything you need for a field outing, it also helps with gathering everything when you are ready to pack up and head home.

#### **ON OCTOBER 5, 2024**

Please join us for Sunday evening ARES Information & Training nets and check KS-LV-ARES.signaleer.us regularly. We'll update you on both as the SET plans are developed.

*"Let's be as transparent as possible as we train and perfect skills and utilization of radios we own." WØSER* 

"I think stretching our radio capabilities will add confidence to the toolkit." KFØKBC

> Let's have fun doing what we do best!

## Sunday ARES Info & Training Net - 145.330 - May, 2024 Net Report

05 May (11) NBØR ---- Brian\* KFØKBC ---- Keith WØSER ---- Steve\*\* KØAVN ---- Dave KZØIMO ---- Roxann WAØSRS ---- Steve KFØKOS ---- Guy KD7QOR ---- Ed KFØROB ---- Rob NJØP ---- Rick KAØDJR ---- Dick

12 May(7)NBØR ---- Brian\*WØSER ---- SteveKEØSYO ---- Vic\*\*KZØIMO ---- RoxannNJØP ---- RickWAØSRS ---- SteveKD7QOR ---- Ed

<u>19 May (11)</u>
NBØR Brian*
KFØKBC Keith
WØSER Steve**
KZØIMO Roxann
WAØSRS Steve
KD7QOR Ed
KØRGB Russ
NJØP Rick
KAØDJR Dick
KFØPXE Thad
KEØSYO Vic

26 May (6) NBØR ---- Brian\* KFØKBC ---- Keith KEØSYO ---- Vic\*\* NJØP ---- Rick KØMDP ---- Max KFØKOS ---- Guy (\*) - Net Control Station (\*\*) - Alternate NCS



## Wednesday PKARC Net - 147.000 May, 2024 Net Report

01 Mav (16)WAØSRS ---- Steve\* KØAWW ---- Randy AAØMV ---- Steve KDØHOY ---- Ron WØSER ---- Steve K2SCT ---- Scott W6BDD ---- George KAØDJR ---- Dick KAØARW ---- Jeff KBØSCK ---- Lindsey KFØPIB ---- Chris KFØQAL ---- Loren KFØDOA ---- Bill NJØP ---- Rick KFØLHD ---- Phil NRØR ---- Mark <u>08 May (12</u> WAØSRS ---- Steve\* (12) W6BDD ---- George AAØMV ---- Steve WØSER ---- Steve KFØKBC ---- Keith KAØARW ---- Jeff KFØKOS ---- Guy KFØDQA ---- Phil KFØOAL ---- Loren KFØPIB ---- Chris KGØHG ---- Joe NRØR ---- Mark <u>15 May (16)</u> WAØSRS ---- Steve\* AAØMV ---- Steve KFØKBC ---- Keith K2SCT ---- Scott KØMDP ---- Max KAØARW ---- Jeff KFØPXE ---- Thad

15 May (cont)
KFØQAL Loren
KAØDJR Dick
W6BDD George
NRØR Mark
KFØLNZ John
KBØSCK Lindsey
<u>22 May (15)</u>
<u>22 May (15)</u> WAØSRS Steve*
KBØYME Loren
AAØMV Steve
KJ5BHF Terry
KEØWLM Ty
WØSER Steve
NJØP Rick
KAØARW Jeff
KFØKBC Keith
KØMDP Max
KFØQAL Loren
KGØHG Joe

KDØHOY ---- Ron

22 May (cont) KFØKOS ---- Guy KØRON ---- Ron

29 May (15) WAØSRS ---- Steve\* KBØYME ---- Loren WØSER ---- Steve KEØWLM ---- Ty K2SCT ---- Scott KFØKBC ---- Keith KEØSYO ---- Vic KFØKOS ---- Guy KAØARW ---- Jeff KØRON ---- Ron KFØQAL ---- Loren KAØDJR ---- Dick KZØIMO ---- Roxann KDØHOY ---- Ron NRØR ---- Mark

(\*) - Net Control Station



KBØYME ---- Loren KEØSYO ---- Vic KFØDQA ---- Phil

#### 2024 Pilgrimage to Xenia – A Ham Radio Journey

DAYTON HAMVENTION 2024 Rick Reichert NJØP

Hamvention - An International Exposition My first license arrived in the mail in 1978 but my first



journey to Hamvention didn't take place until 2019, forty years later. My only excuse is not realizing the importance of such a trip to the largest gathering of Radio Amateurs in the world. Indeed, this is an international event, and it takes five flagpoles loaded with flags to honor the countries represented at Hamvention. I describe this as a convention attended by 35,000 of my ham buddies. I now try to make it back every other year and this year was my third trip. Hamvention takes place at the Greene County Fairground in Xenia, Ohio which is a suburb of Dayton. It is a top-tier venue of large pavilions, acres of nearby parking, plenty of transportation options, great food from regional vendors and

Flagpoles in the pavilion area represent international visitors

restaurants, and a flea market area that is larger than most stadiums. It takes two days for a healthy person to see every vendor and used equipment seller. Quite frankly, whatever ham radio thing you may be looking for, if you can't find it at Hamvention, you're not going to find it anywhere.

**Checking out the new stuff.** Inside the pavilions, every vendor you've ever heard of is there. Even though it was crowded, with patience, I was able to spend time with my favorites, try the equipment, and ask very specific questions. One such visit was to look at the Yaesu FTM-500D. I asked a lot of questions, and the answers convinced me to buy one which was conveniently available at the Ham Radio Outlet booth next door. In addition to the Yaesu instant rebate, HRO had several additional discounts making the stop a great deal. Larger rigs had bigger discounts and I saw a lot of new radio boxes headed for the exits.

Checking out the old stuff. The flea market, a.k.a. "the boneyard" had a theme. There was a lot of very



Author in the Boneyard

nice vintage equipment such as Drake, Halicrafters, EF Johnson, Collins, National, and the like. I'm not into old "boat anchors", but it was great to see so many well-kept or nicely restored tube-based radios. There was a dearth of equipment from the 1980-2000 era. That was the heyday of packet radio, programmable scanners, large-format hand-held radios, etc. I found only one packet TNC on a table and the owner decided not to sell it. If I needed a left-handed ramophramitz with a heloscopic induction coil, I imagine there were plenty to be had. There were so many junk boxes to look through and plenty of opportunities to fill up my spare parts bins.

**Meeting our ARRL Staff**. All the big wigs from ARRL were there. They had a significant footprint in Building 2. I spent time at the ARRL Foundation booth where I learned about ARRL's Club Grant Program. I found out that there are grants available up to \$25,000 for projects that are transformative in nature. This information put my gray matter into overdrive. I have such a project in mind and will share it with the club in the very near term. Nearby ARRL booths included ARES, QSL Card verification, and many other support teams from ARRL. They also had the ARRL Store there where I purchased my Field Day 2024 T-shirt.

Making the Decision to Go. I've touched on just a few aspects that piqued my interest. The Hamvention included over \$30,000 in prizes, four simultaneous forum tracts, vehicle displays, youth-oriented build sessions, special event stations, booths with representatives from radio organizations from around the world, and myriad activities both on and off the grounds, such as the Four Days in May QRP event. PKARC was represented by Gary and Martha Auchard, our club president Steve Rice, and yours truly.



Aerial view of Hamvention at the Greene County Fairground

73 de Rick, NJØP

## PKARC Breakfast Photos - 09 and 23 May, 2024

### Courtesy of Guy (KFØKOS)





**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 **ORZ** 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 **ORZ** via Email, 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.* 





FCC examinations for the Technician, General and Extra Class licenses are available on request for anyone. The charge is \$10.00. Exams are usually given at the Thursday Morning Breakfast or prior to the regular Club Meeting, but can be scheduled for any convenient time. If you need assistance preparing for a test, please ask any Club member. The FCC requires that all amateurs have an email address. Also, if you are testing for the first time you must have an FRN. To acquire that 10-digit number you can either find "How to Register for your FRN" through Ham Radio Prep or visit the following link: https//apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do and select register, individual and continue to fill out the form. You will receive your FRN number as soon as the form is submitted. That number will be used for all communications with the FCC. Save it!!

If you have any questions about testing, would like to schedule a test or are interested in becoming a Volunteer Examiner, please contact Martha Auchard (WØERI) or Gary Auchard (WØMNA), at (913) 772-7350. Please leave a message if no one answers. If you are testing for General or Extra class, please bring an extra copy of your current license.

**This Space for Rent (for Free)** If you have something to say,

something for sale, photos to share or anything else related to Amateur Radio, PLEASE send it to the editor and we'll get it in the newsletter!