



Max KØMDP captures out of this world perspective

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CLUB MEETING  
INFORMATION

First Thursday of the Month

Next Meeting: 07 Nov 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: *Pilgrim Community Church*

500 Arch St,  
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Third Thursday of the Month is our Build/Learn Session

Time: 6 or 7 PM Check the club calendar

Location: *Pilgrim Community Church*

## Club Breakfast Meeting

Every Thursday

Time 7:30 a.m.

Location: *Depot Restaurant*

781 Shawnee St.  
Leavenworth, KS 66048



*The depot*  
est 1887

## From the President's Desk

As many of you are aware, one of our members, KD5MDA, Janet Reichert is now a silent key. Jan was best known to me as Susie, the central figure in our 2023 SET exercise as well as the wife of Rick NJØP. She will be dearly missed by all that knew her.

September and October have been dry weather months, which reinforced the need for the exercise scenario our club performed for this year's Simulated Emergency Test "SET" on October 5<sup>th</sup>. We had great club participation, I believe 17 of our members were involved, plus Rachael Schutte of the Leavenworth County Emergency Management was a very interested observer. Rick NJØP our Emergency Coordinator will be providing a wrap-up of highlights and lessons learned from this fun and important exercise.

Congratulations to Thomas Ward II, KFØRWS that passed his Technician Exam and then his General all during the month of October. His participation in this year's SET exercise really lit a fire under him...pun intended.

Our upcoming club meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> will include the election of officers for 2025, discussions about the club Christmas Party on Friday evening December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Pilgrim Community Church. We will also outline some of the club scheduled events for the early part of 2025 and Max will be sharing more of his Geosynchronous weather satellite photos and how he is downloading them.

As we mentioned at our October 3<sup>rd</sup> Club meeting that FOX hunting season is approaching, we had a great turnout at our club build session on Oct.17<sup>th</sup> for the tape measure antenna build. In addition to the build Gary WØMNA was teaching several of our members how to tune antennas with an MFJ analyzer. I still have a couple of part kits (\$15) for the antenna build if there are others that are interested, just let me know, I will bring them to the club meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

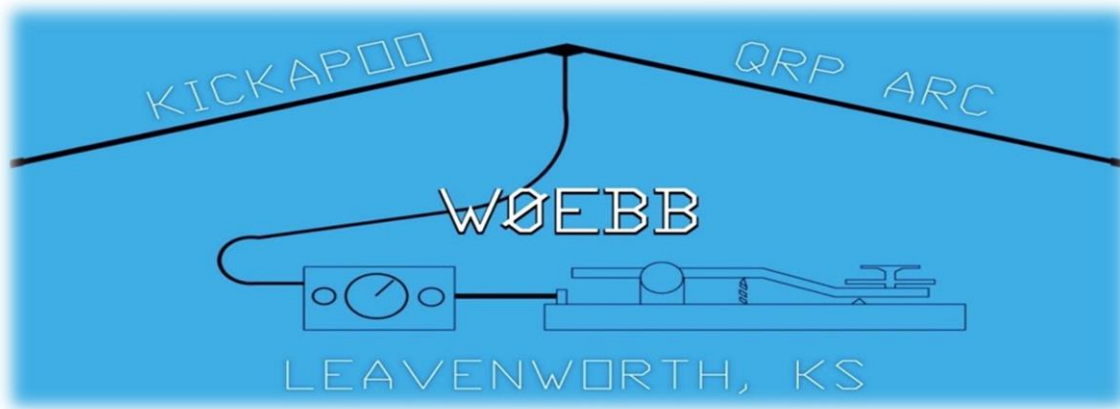
Gary and I rounded up three foxes we can turn loose for the hunt, that date is still being determined, we welcome your suggestions. I will bring one to the club meeting for those that would like to test out their hunting equipment. We can do that at the conclusion of our regular meeting.

We will have a build/learning session on November 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be several topics covered including how to achieve the best SWR for your equipment, Gary will have the antenna analyzer and an adjustable antenna for those that would like to learn how to use the club's MFJ analyzer. We will also be looking at building plans for a CW code practice oscillator for those interested. We will need to procure the parts for a future session or something you could build at home.

Don't forget the Veteran's Day Parade on November 11<sup>th</sup>, I understand it will be much bigger and better than the past few years, you won't want to miss it.

73,

Steve WØSER



## From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

The portable operating in the month of late September and early October was a no-go. It's not that we did not have the time or place, it was a case of being restricted from doing so. What does that mean? Very simply, if you take a cruise these days on most all cruise lines you will find that ham radio is banned from being used or carried on the ship. That info is usually found in small print at the bottom of the "Banned items" list but they really mean it. If you are found to have any type of ham radio equipment with you, they will take it, and you cannot get it back until your final docking of the cruise. As such, a weeklong cruise to eastern Canada meant I could not take even my smallest HF transceiver with me.

The cruise was a lot of fun and we did see some interesting things in the ports we stopped at. We went a day early and flew to Quebec City so we could spend a day touring the area. Very nice city and we were mostly in the old downtown part near the docks where the ships dock. That was a benefit the day we boarded the ship as we could just tote our bags a couple of blocks to the dock where we boarded the ship named the Norwegian Joy. The thing about Quebec City is it really helps to know some French as that is the language used by almost everyone and all the signs are in French.

Our next port was a place called LaBaie/Saguenay and is a nice place to tour, but we didn't get the option to do so. When the ship docked the wind was so strong it would blow you over, plus it was raining so you would get very wet. We opted to just stay on the ship and watch the other brave passengers get wet and blown away.

The second port we stopped at was called Charlottetown on Prince Edward Island. Here the weather was much better, and we toured the city via a horse drawn carriage. This is a very old city with a lot of buildings dating back to the 1600's and 1700's. It's a very pretty place so put that on your agenda if you ever get up into that part of the world.

The next port of call was Sydney and Baddeck on Cape Breton Island. These two cities we toured by bus and the most interesting stop was at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck. Alexander invented much more than the telephone as shown in this museum. Very interesting place and another thing to visit if you are in the area.

Our next port was at Halifax Nova Scotia. This is a very busy shipping port and has a very interesting history. In Halifax there are three cemeteries where they buried some of the victims of the Titanic disaster. We visited the largest cemetery and saw the grave markers. A sad but interesting place to visit. There are also many of the victims of the huge explosion in 1917 there in the harbor that killed almost 2000 people, plus destroyed most of the city. This happened when two cargo ships collided in the harbor, and one was carrying a lot of TNT, and such headed to the war in Europe. Look it up sometime as it is a very interesting story. At the time it was the largest recorded explosion up to that time in history.

One interesting point in all these stops was I didn't see a single antenna that I could identify as a ham radio type of antenna. I'm sure there were hams that lived in these cities, but they must live more on the outer areas or have well-hidden antennas.

Our last stop was in New York City. Here we spent the day down near Times Square and toured some of the local sites. The traffic and amount of people living in such a location made me appreciate where I live now. I would not want to live in NYC due to the noise, traffic, crowded atmosphere and above all the cost of everything you do or buy there. I'll take Kansas anytime over NYC.

The SET exercise on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October was a very fun and interesting event and turned out very well. A good number of the club members were on hand to make this event happen, and a fine job was done by Rick – NJ0P for setting it up and making it all come together. That about sums up our activity for most of October. Looking forward to Thursday morning breakfast gatherings and other activities of the PKARC.

See you at the breakfast gatherings. We'll miss the November club meeting as we'll be in Branson and hopefully doing our final SOTA activation for this year.

Gary Auchard - W0MNA

### What is QRP operation?

What ham radio operators say: "If you want to talk to someone, use a big high-powered radio. If you want to talk to everyone, use a small low-powered one." This saying refers to the use of QRP, or low-power, operation. Ham radio QRP involves the use of radios with typically a maximum output power of five watts or less, which often are kit buildable.

Despite the lower power output, QRP radios can communicate over long distances, thanks to their simple yet efficient design, utilizing weak signal modes like CW, FT8 JS8Call and others. This makes QRP operation an attractive low budget, very portable option for amateur radio operators who enjoy the challenge of communicating with low-power radios



## Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024



### PKARC Officers

President:

Steve WØSER

Vice President:

Keith KFØKBC

Secretary:

Roxann KZØIMO

Treasurer:

Martha WØERI

*PKARC is a  
501c(3)  
non-profit club*

*Your generous  
donations enable  
scientific,  
technology, and  
educational  
programs for the  
club.*

### Call to Order

The meeting of the PKARC was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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), Roxann (KZØIMO), Rick (NJØP), Steve (WØSER), Thadd Brzustowicz (KFØPXE) Don (KFØMZG), Ed M (KD7QOR), Phil (KFØDQA), Robert (KDØQXR), Vic H (KFØSYO), Bruce (WBØQFU), Tom (NØCALL), Vic B (KDØPZV).

The meeting opened with Introductions of those present.

Vic motioned to approve minutes and Ed M seconded. Motion carried.

Martha gave a treasures report.

There was some discussion about 2025 Officers (nomination Committee). Then the formation of Ham of the Year (Martha, Gary Thadd and Roxann) committee, the Buffalo Chip (Keith) and a committee for December 6<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party (John and Scott) will work on poll for attendance so gifts/door prizes with potluck food signup to come later. Note no club meeting December 5<sup>th</sup>.

There was some discussion about the next build session on October 17<sup>th</sup> to possibly build some fox hunting equipment and test antennas.

Lastly, Rick was given the floor to go over some highlights for the October 5<sup>th</sup> SET. He reviewed the 201 and the schedule of Events on page 21.

### Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Roxann Kosmicki, KZØIMO



We maintain our privileges because we are first and foremost a valuable service to the public, especially in times of emergency.

Be Sure to watch for an ARES Special Edition coming out which will be an in-depth report on the 2024 SET Exercise

## KS-LV-ARES 2024 SET



Operation: Smoky and the Land Lit

### ARRL Club Grant Proposal

#### Now the Hard Part

The project to create a suite of remotely accessed VHF/UHF and HF radios is beginning to get some legs. The concept was reviewed by John Knutson, Emergency Preparedness Regional Coordinator for Prime Healthcare, that owns Saint John Hospital. He will be taking it to hospital leadership, but he is confident that the project will be approved to be housed there.

Rick – NJØP is leading an effort to write an ARRL Club Grant request to facilitate education in application development for software-controlled radios, kit building for computer-to-radio interfaces, and procedures for the installation and operation of the equipment needed for a distributed emergency operations capability.

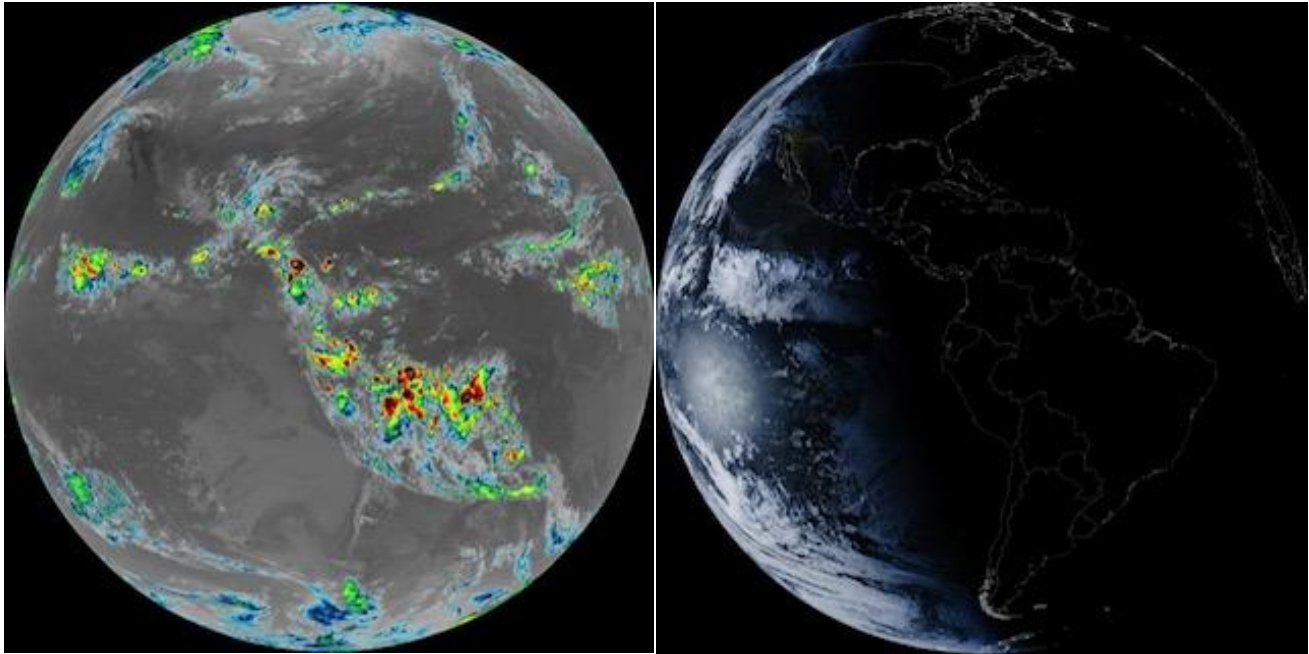
Our ask of Saint John Hospital was for additional space and power to increase the number of radios, antennas, power, and rack space. We have been given the go ahead for this!!!

When complete, the station will be accessible anywhere in the hospital, anywhere in the Leavenworth County EOC, and from any location accessible via the Mesh network.



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Here are a few more images Max KØMDP has captured using some recently acquired equipment and software enabling him to download from a Geosynchronous Weather Satellite



Max will share these and other amazing images at our upcoming club meeting. Max *is radio active!*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

- December 6<sup>th</sup> **Pilot Knob Christmas Party**
  - 00:01 January 1, 2025, **Buffalo Chip Net**
  - February 22nd **Freeze Your Keys** at Weston Bend State Park
  - And of course, all the scheduled club Nets, meetings and breakfasts, watch the club calendar @PKARC.org for additional information and additional activities!
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