



PKARC Annual Christmas Party December 6th

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CLUB MEETING
INFORMATION

First Thursday of the Month

Next Meeting: 2nd Jan 2025

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

The Holiday Season is in full swing, with Thanksgiving and Black Friday behind us and Cyber Monday and Giving Tuesday on deck, there are so many ways to use our credit cards.... Our Club Christmas Party will be a relaxing reprieve from all that. I would like to thank those bringing a dish to share in advance. It will be fun to see the smiles on our members' faces as we tell stories and view images from club events of this past year. Unfortunately, several of our members will not be able to attend due to prior commitments, but I know we will be thinking of them and their contributions to the club. Hopefully they will be able to attend next year.

Speaking of next year, our leadership team has not changed. I hope it is because our members feel we are doing a good job. I know for me personally the support and advice I have received from the current and past leadership teams has made my role easier than I thought. We have seen several enhancements to how we communicate not only within the club but also with the public. A big thank you goes to Rick NJØP for our Club's very own Groups.io link and our new PKARC.org website. I also would like to acknowledge Jeff KAØARW for his articles in the Leavenworth Times. I am certain our website and news articles have reached and intrigued many new viewers, some of whom have become new members along with others that have tested for licensing or upgrades.

One of the highlights of this year for me was learning that one of our members Sarah KEØYXG was awarded a very nice scholarship from the ARRL and featured in the QST magazine. She is currently attending the University Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Sarah hopes to be able to attend our January meeting while home on Christmas break.

I want to also thank all our members that have participated in numerous club events and meetings. We have had a busy year starting with the Buffalo Chip Net, KCHEART annual meeting along with our SHARC teams' monthly nets at the hospitals, Freeze Your Keys, Several SET practice sessions, Lewis and Clark on the Air, Field Day, Weather Spotter Callouts, Leavenworth County Fair, Fred Harvey House Museum on the Air, Twin Oaks Bike and Car Show, SET exercise, Goblin Patrol, and Veterans Day Parade.

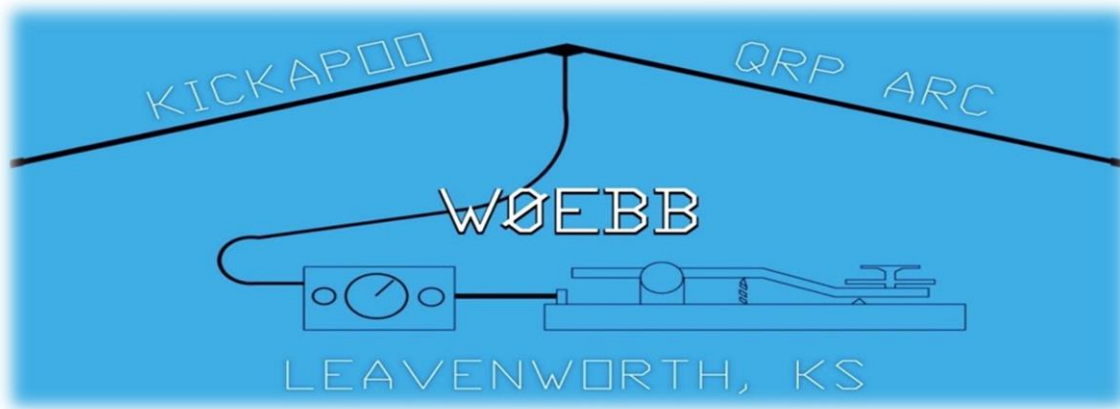
We have had several teams help with equipment installations and maintenance at the two hospitals for our repeaters and MESH networks. And a special Thank You to Gary WØMNA for our build sessions. Let's not forget our NETS, we have had great participation on our weekly nets from members and non-members. I am sure that I may have missed mentioning one or two events, but we have been "Ham Active". As far as I can tell 2025 will have all those member opportunities and probably more.

Thank you for sharing many of those events with me and I look forward to joining in with each of you on the fun next year! Our next regular meeting will be Jan 2nd, we will be holding Thursday breakfast meetings in December, but you will have to share what Santa brought you for Christmas until Jan 2nd, as we won't have a gathering on the 26th or a build session on the 19th.

Merry Christmas and have a Blessed New Year,

Steve WØSER

P.S. As your club president I would be remiss if I didn't mention that 2025 Dues are now payable.



From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

The month of November found us in the southwest part of Missouri on a trip to visit Silver Dollar City for their Christmas celebration. While in this area we had the opportunity to do our final SOTA activation for 2024. The summit we activated is one we have activated a number of times in the past and is called Pilot Knob.

Pilot Knob is in a state conservation area and in the past there was a fire tower on the top. That fire tower is no longer there, but the footings for the legs are still present so you can see where it used to be. The trail up to the summit is what is left of the old road the fire ranger used to drive up to the summit. To call it a road today would be pushing it a bit. Today that is not much more than a clear path up to the summit that all traffic other than hiking is prohibited. The hike is not a long hike, and the grade is not overly steep. It takes about 20 to 30 minutes to reach the summit at an easy pace.

The top is now overgrown pretty badly with brush, but you can find a clear enough space to set up an antenna and operate. This year we only spent about an hour on this activation and operated on 40 and 20 meters SSB. The contacts seemed to mostly be to the east with most contacts made in Texas, Indiana, Georgia, Illinois, New York, Nebraska, Colorado and finally Kansas where we made our last contact with Steve – WOSER on 40 meters. The weather that day was beautiful and a perfect day to do an activation. We used the 40/20 trap dipole antenna that we built in one of our building sessions. This antenna has worked flawlessly and effectively now on many summits. Also, on this activation we were trying out a new radio.

The new radio is a Yaesu FT-891 HF transceiver. We had been using a Yaesu FT-857D on all of our past activations, but earlier this fall we were on a summit in Oklahoma called Cavanal Mountain. That summit has a large number of radio towers on it and is a very RF noisy environment to operate in. A fellow SOTA activator that has activated that same summit a number of times using the FT-891 radio said he has not had a problem operating there. We opted recently to upgrade our HF SOTA radio to the FT-891 and Pilot Knob was our first opportunity to use it. All of our accessory items were compatible with the new radio so that was a plus. We found the FT-891 easy to operate and had an excellent receiver so we're hoping the next time we activate the summit in Oklahoma we'll have an easier time making contacts there.

The next activity for the PKARC will be the annual Christmas Dinner. This is always held on the first Friday in December and this year we'll hold the dinner at the Pilgrim Community Church where we hold our monthly club meetings. The dinner gathering will start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner being served no later than 6:00. As in past years, we'll be giving out the "Ham of the year" award. The much coveted "Buffalo Chip" award will be awarded at the January meeting. We'll have some prizes to give out like last year so be sure to come join us for this enjoyable event.

Don't forget to join us at our weekly breakfast gatherings at the Depot restaurant. We've been having a fairly steady group showing up each week and there's always room for more. Hope to see you all at the breakfast gatherings and the Christmas dinner.

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 November 7, 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 November 7th, at Pilgrim Community Church. It began at 7:00 pm and was presided over by President Steve Rice (W0SER), Keith (KF0KBC) VP, and Roxann (KZ0IMO) secretary.

Roll Call

Members in attendance included: Keith (KF0KBC), Vic (KE0SYO), Roxann (KZ0IMO), John (KF0LNZ), Ron (N0CALL), Loren (KB0YME), Don (KF0MZG), Max (K0MDP), Rick (NJ0P), Steve (W0SER), Phil (KF0DQA), Sean (KF0QQF), Thad (KF0PXE), Bruce (WB0QFU), Tom (KF0RWS), and Vic B (KD0PZV).

The meeting opened with Introductions of those present.

Keith motioned to approve October minutes as printed. Thad seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Steve read Martha's treasures report.

Steve took a quick poll to see who would be attending the Dec 6th Christmas dinner. The set up will be at 5:30 and eating will start at approximately 6pm. It was mentioned that Donna Everett donated a carved wooden eagle that will be entered into the silent auction. A reminder that the \$25 dollar dues is typically collected at Christmas dinner.

A motion was made by Roxann that the club pays for the Turkey & Ham for the Christmas dinner. Thad seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

If anyone is interested in a tax deduction form, we advise asking Martha for one now that we are a 501.3c club. Rick mentioned the grant writing projects that will be opening soon.

Vic H talked briefly about his wife's deployment through the RedCross down to North Carolina. Noting that she had never been to the early portion of a deployment and found it very chaotic.

Roxann asked for the floor to list club officer nominations. Steve (W0SER) for President, Keith (KF0KBC) for Vice President, Martha (W0ERI) for Treasurer and Roxann (KZ0IMO) for secretary. She asked if there were any nominations on the floor. There were none. A vote was called for and all nominations were unanimously approved.

Rick was given the floor, and he would like the Sunday night ARES net to have everyone rotate through the various positions. A schedule will be drafted for that purpose. Positions would be: Net Control, Alternate Net Control and Logger. He also strongly encouraged all ARES (who double as RACES in a civil even) and non-ARES members to reach for becoming a Radio Operator Level 4 (which is the lowest level) so that if an emergency happened in our local area you would have a badge the validates your skill level. This enables local government entities to know that level since it is a set standard and they are more apt to accept you as a volunteer.

Steve mentioned that we could also do another into class to the Net Control Manager website that we currently use for the 214 ICS log. Also, that we should set up an equipment list "check in and out" in groups.io. There was a brief discussion of what the club budget looks like as the question rose regarding the cost for groups.io and the website. John made a motion to discuss the topic at a later time. Roxann seconded. No further discussion since members agreed. Motion carried. This was tabled.

John (KF0LNZ) stated that we should consider more educational materials and events for 2025.

Then Max (K0MDP) was given the opportunity to present his experiences with weather satellites. He showed us the GOES and SDR and the various software (free) that he has used with each. This was a fascinating topic and there were many questions. Thank you, Max, for a wonderful presentation.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Roxann Kosmicki, KZ0IMO



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 and the new rack space will be installed Dec 2nd!!!

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.

Leavenworth County ARES® Thursday Night Check-ins

Weekly Voice Training Reinforcement Net 147.000 MHz (+) FM 151.4 Hz KDØZKP/R

Nov. 7.	No net, PKARC Meeting	Nov 21	No Net, Club Build Session
Nov. 14.	(5)	Nov 28	No Net, Thanksgiving
KAØDJR	----- Dick*		
KFØKBC	----- Keith (Logger)		* NCS
WAØSRS	----- Steve		
WØSER	----- Steve		
KZØIMO	----- Roxanne		

October PKARC Wednesday Night Net Check-in's

147.00 with + Offset and 151.4 Tone

<u>2 October (17)</u>	<u>9 October (17)</u>	<u>16 October (16)</u>	<u>23 October (13)</u>	<u>30 October (15)</u>
WAØSRS ---- Steve*	WAØSRS ---- Steve*	WAØSRS ---- Steve*	WAØSRS ---- Steve*	WAØSRS ---- Steve*
AAØMV ---- Steve	WØSER ---- Steve	KGØHG ---- Joe	WØSER ---- Steve	AAØMV ---- Steve
WØSER ---- Steve	KBØYME ---- Loren	KFØQAL ---- Loren	KAØDJR ---- Dick	KØAWW ---- Randy
KBØYME ---- Loren	KAØARW ---- Jeff	KFØDQA ---- Phil	KFØKBC ---- Keith	KBØYME ---- Loren
K2SCT ---- Scott	KD7QOR ---- Ed	KØMDP ---- Max	KAØARW ---- Jeff	WØSER ---- Steve
KEØSYO ---- Vic	KZØIMO ---- Roxann	WØSER ---- Steve	KØRON ---- Ron	KØRON ---- Ron
KAØARW ---- Jeff	KEØSYO ---- Vic	KBØYUV ---- Cliff	KFØKOS ---- Guy	KGØHG ---- Joe
KGØHG ---- Joe	KFØKBC ---- Keith	KFØKBC ---- Keith	KØMDP ---- Max	KZØIMO ---- Roxann
KFØKOS ---- Guy	NRØR ---- Mark	K2SCT ---- Scott	KFØDQA ---- Phil	KD7QOR ---- Ed
KFØKBC ---- Keith	NJØP ---- Rick	KDØHOY ---- Ron	KFØQAL ---- Loren	KFØKBC ---- Keith
KC9OHX ---- Robert	KAØDJR ---- Dick	KAØDJR ---- Dick	WBØQFU ---- Bruce	KAØARW ---- Jeff
KFØPIB ---- Chris	AAØMV ---- Steve	W6BDD ---- George	WØRIP ---- John	KFØQAL ---- Loren
WØRIP ---- John	KFØPIB ---- Chris	KFØKOS ---- Guy	NRØR ---- Mark	KEØSYO ---- Vic
KDØHOY ---- Ron	KGØHG ---- Joe	KEØSYO ---- Vic		KAØDJR ---- Dick
NJØP ---- Rick	KFØRII ---- Jasmine	KBØYME ---- Loren		NRØR ---- Mark
KØLBR ---- Steve	KFØQAL ---- Loren	NRØR ---- Mark		
NRØR ---- Mark	KDØHOY ---- Ron			
* NCS				

November PKARC Wednesday Night Net Check-in's

147.00 with + Offset and 151.4 Tone

<u>6 November (14)</u>	<u>13 November (17)</u>	<u>20 November (15)</u>	<u>27 November (14)</u>
WAØSRS ---- Steve*	WAØSRS ---- Steve*	WAØSRS ---- Steve*	WAØSRS ---- Steve*
KØAWW ---- Randy	AAØMV ---- Steve	AAØMV ---- Steve	AAØMV ---- Steve
AAØMV ---- Steve	KBØYME ---- Loren	WØSER ---- Steve	KBØYME ---- Loren
WØSER ---- Steve	WØSER ---- Steve	KBØYME ---- Loren	KEØWLM ---- Ty
KBØYME ---- Loren	KFØRWS ---- Tom	KFØRWS ---- Tom	KBØYUV ---- Cliff
KD7QOR ---- Ed	K2SCT ---- Scott	KEØSYO ---- Vic	WØSER ---- Steve
KØMDP ---- Max	KGØHG ---- Joe	WBØQFU ---- Bruce	WBØQFU ---- Bruce
KAØARW ---- Jeff	KFØKBC ---- Keith	KAØARW ---- Jeff	KAØARW ---- Jeff
NJØP ---- Rick	KAØARW ---- Jeff	KFØKBC ---- Keith	W6BDD ---- George
KFØKBC ---- Keith	KEØSYO ---- Vic	KFØDQA ---- Phil	NØXMZ ---- Scott
NØRCI ---- JR	KFØQAL ---- Loren	NJØP ---- Rick	NØKPH ---- Porter
KFØQAL ---- Loren	NJØP ---- Rick	KFØKOS ---- Guy	KFØDQA ---- Phil
KDØHOY ---- Ron	WBØQFU ---- Bruce	WØRIP ---- John	NRØR ---- Mark
NRØR ---- Mark	WØRIP ---- John	KDØHOY ---- Ron	KCØEMZ ---- Mark
	KFØBQY ---- Brian	NRØR ---- Mark	
	KØLBR ---- Steve		
	NRØR ---- Mark		
*NCS			

UPCOMING EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

- December 6th **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 activities!