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CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

Meetings
 Monthly on First Thursdays

Next Meeting Date/Time
 7:00 pm
 Thurs, Jan 8, 2026

Build & Learn Sessions

Most Months on Third Thursdays

Next Session Date/Time
 6:00 pm or 7:00 pm
 Check the club [calendar](#)

Location
 Pilgrim Community Church
 500 Arch Street
 Leavenworth, KS 66048

Club Breakfast

Every Thursday
 7:30 am
 at
[The Depot](#) 1887
 781 Shawnee Street
 Leavenworth, KS 66048



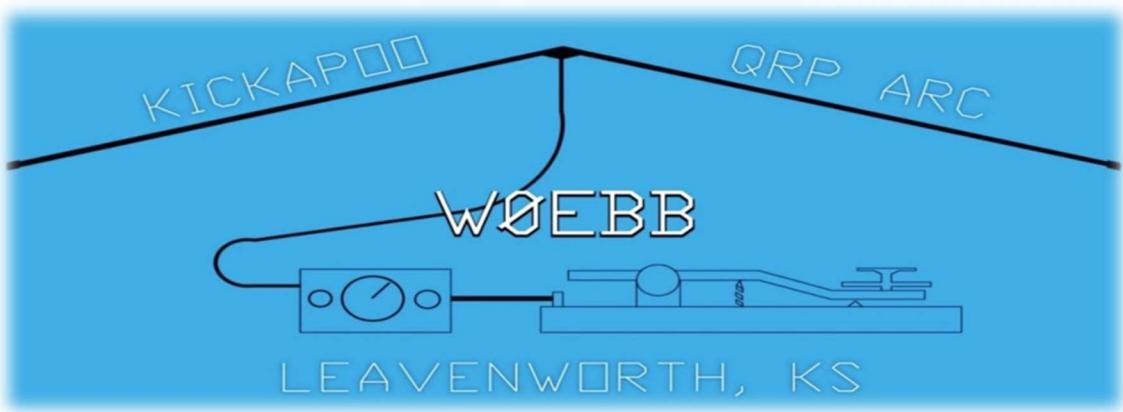
From the President's Desk

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to a great 2026 for the Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club. I am always amazed at how many activities the club membership supports each year. This includes but is not limited to ARES, KCHEART, MECC SET, Freeze Your Keys (FYK), Field Day (FD), Harvey House (HH), Goblin Patrol (GP), and Veterans Day Parade (VDP). And, lets not forget weekly breakfast and monthly meetings and build/learn sessions. I look forward to working with all of you and growing the club over the next two years. I want to take a minute and say thank you to Steve (W0SER) and Keith (KF0KBC) for their service and commitment to PKARC as President and Vice President over the past several years. I know I have big shoes to fill following Steve and I am hoping to keep both as mentors over the next two years. Thank you both.

I specifically want to address the Christmas Party. I really appreciate the all the effort in preparing and executing the annual Christmas Party – a true success from the food to the gifts. I saw a lot of happy faces. We are blessed. I want to say congratulations to Roxann (KZ0IMO) who received the Buffalo Chip Award and to Guy (KF0KOS) who received the HAM of the year award.



In closing, I want to say that I am looking forward to working with all of you for a successful 2026. I would like to wish everyone a happy new year. I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and was able to spend time with all your family and friends. As we go about the new year I pray that it brings you peace and good health.



From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

Well, it's a new year with plenty of future operating events to look forward to. The first operating event will be the 22nd annual "Freeze Your Keys" winter operating event. This year we will again hold this event at the shelter house at Weston Bend State Park in Missouri on February 28th, 2026. Mark your calendars so you won't forget. We'll have more info on this event in the February issue of the QRZ newsletter.

Of course the PKARC will be busy with Field Day, Fred Harvey Day, Veteran's Day Parade, ARES, plus many other planned events like a POTA day and such just to name a few. It should be a good year for the club operations with a new crew of officers to lead us through the year.

It has been a very active year for Martha – W0ERI and I doing the SOTA activations. This year we managed to get up on thirty one summits in seven states. Those states were Alabama, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, South Dakota, Montana and Ohio. This makes two hundred seventy three summits we have been on since starting the SOTA activating back in 2012. Looking forward to doing about the same number of summits again in 2026, so that should put us over three hundred summits by the end of the year. We never thought we would manage to get this far, but it just happens and there has been a lot of fun involved along the way.

POTA seems to have become a very active part of ham radio and the PKARC club is no exception. We had a group of club members gather at the shelter house in Weston Bend State Park in November where we set up to operate on a beautiful day. Plenty of contacts were made, but the other goal was to practice setting up in remote locations and successfully making contacts. This is good practice for possibly having to set up for some type of emergency event. There was a lot of fun also shared in this event and the PKARC is planning on doing this again several times in 2026 so stay tuned.

Our club building sessions will pick up again on January 15th so put that date on your calendar also. We're always looking for ideas on what type of building you would like to do. We have videos we can show you concerning ham radio activities and such, plus some actual construction projects, but we really need to hear from the group on what you would like us to present. What areas of ham radio would you like more info on or training in? Let us know at the club meeting and build sessions so we can put something together to answer that need.

Our breakfast gatherings have been very strong these days. We had fifteen show up the day after Thanksgiving and have been averaging around ten per week. A lot of good conversation and information is passed around in these gatherings, so come on out and join us if you have not been there yet. The location is the Depot Restaurant at 781 Shawnee in Leavenworth, and the start time is 7:30. Plenty of good food also and you're always welcome.

Hope to see you at the January 8th PKARC meeting, plus our weekly breakfast gatherings.

Gary Auchard - W0MNA



Secretary's Page



Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
October 2nd, 2025

No Secretary notes due to no meeting.



SHARC Net
Monday January 5th
2026 1915-1930 Hours
147.000 (+) 151.4 Hz

Saint John Hospital Amateur Radio Club (SHARC)

SHARC provides an identity and rallying point for Radio Amateurs participating in activities at Saint John Hospital and supporting Providence Medical Center. The Amateur Radio portion of the Saint John Hospital Command Center is called the **SHARC Tank**.

Club Call: **KFØLOG** Trustee: **Roxann – KZØIMO**

January 5th, 2026 SHARC NET supporting the **KCHEART Monthly Test**

Team 1 (W0SER, KE0SYO and W9WTY) reports to SJH

Team 2 (K0MDP, KD7QOR, and KB0YME) reports to PMC

*Bring Laptop to PMC

All others report your availability to respond via 147.000 (+) 151.4 Hz FM to KFØLOG between 7:15 pm and 7:30 pm.

The **Kansas City Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Team (KCHEART)** is the regional coordinating body for all hospital-based Amateur Radio stations used in auxiliary communications support to their host hospital. KCHEART forms a valuable voice and slow-speed data network between medical facilities.

Here is a gentle reminder that if you still need to finish some KCHEART training videos please use this link: [2023 Training Program - ARES® - Leavenworth Co - Kansas](#)

On the ARES groups.io on Nov 25th you can find the SHARC/KCHEART 2026 teams and dates (I did pin this so hopefully it is easy to find).

The annual KCHEART meeting has been scheduled for January 24th, 2026, at the [Central Jackson County Fire Protection District Training Center](#) (4715 SE US 40 Highway Blue Springs, Mo 64015) from 10:00- Noon. If you plan to attend let me know and we can coordinate carpooling or meet up and drive over together. Google maps <https://maps.app.goo.gl/PEXD5DsvByNPhCEDA>

Roxann Kosmicki -KZ0IMO



Reportable Hours

Exercises
Training
Public Service
Community Service
Emergencies
Weather
Meetings
Unclassified Events
<https://forms.gle/UowzGAE3RVFLm3tD7>

Leavenworth County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®)

Emergency Coordinator: Roxann Kosmicki -KZ0IMO, AUXC

Website: <https://KS-LV-ARES.signaleer.us>

Groups.io: <https://groups.io/g/KS-LV-ARES>

ARES Credentialing

If you're new to ARES and need to start your credentials quest, here is a streamlined way to attain what you need.

1. **Download** the updated [Amateur Radio Operator Credentialing Requirements and Resource Typing](#) document revised on 01/17/25 from KS-LV-ARES.signaleer.us. Link is in the New Credentialing Requirements article (main page).

2. **Complete** the requirements for Radio Operator - **Level IV**. Courses are free and online at FEMA's Independent Study Program at <https://training.fema.gov/is/>.

3. **Submit** form and supporting documents according to instructions downloaded in Step 1. On the form, where it says, "MECC Agency including contact person name and email" use the following according to group you are affiliating with:

Leavenworth County ARES®
Roxann Kosmicki
sobelizard@rocketmail.com

Leavenworth Co. Emergency Mgmt
Zach Phillips, Master Deputy
zphillips@lvsheriff.org

KCHEART
Matt May, Director
mmay@wyeokck.org

SHARC/St John Hosp
Roxann Kosmicki
sobelizard@rocketmail.com

4. **Record** your achievements on your KS-LV-ARES Task Book. Task book is available upon request from Roxann-KZ0IMO. The Task Book will show the requirements you still need to complete for credentialing at the next level up.

NOTE: This section is reprinted from the February 2025 Newsletter. This information is also available on KS-LV-ARES.signaleer.us



**Kansas Section
District 4
Zone C**



Roxann Kosmicki
KS-LV-ARES Emergency
Coordinator

Are you READY for the Holidays?

I am writing this on December 18th. Today the wind is really wild (30-45 mph gusts) that it took out our gas stove pipe (when we moved in it was pretty tall) guess we have to fix that now.

Please look on the SHARC page for the up coming KCHEART in person meeting information. Let me know if you plan to go. Please also note that groups.io now has the SHARC 2026 schedule and teams- go check it out (we did have a few changes as well as an addition of a sub - when available).

Our 2026 ARES Quarterly Meetings are:

January 10th 2026, May 9th, July 25th, September 5th and the October 3rd SET.

On May 9th we will have a Table Top Exercise that we will focus in on two forms (ICS 214 and ICS 213).

I would like to handout updated taskbook in January so please send me any updates that you need reflected on your taskbook. Remember anything other than KCHEART, JARA and ARES nets you have to send that information to me. For example you attend a build session and make an item on the Taskbook list (the item if listed as a build counts or it counts as training time), or you check into any other local nets (PKARC- it counts). You just need to let me know. Also, your training hours for FEMA classes, CW classes or meetings for your AEC positions all count.

At the January meeting we will talk more about the World Cup. As announced on the air 12/14 the Metro EM's have asked for a presentation from the MECC membership. Without making to many things public domain at this time, please know there is expected to be 100 or more watch parties in the Metro area.

On December 7th for the ARES 1930 net we did test our HT's on Simplex. I had hoped to have more ARES Field Team Calling Tree members on the Air for this test, but it is what it is. The intent of this test was really to see if the team members could reach each other. If you get a chance, I would encourage you to test this again as a Team. We did find out that some teams were able to reach other teams (your time doing this would count as training- wink wink). Our next simplex test will be will home stations (on battery). I will announce this event when it gets closer. For now enjoy your families.

Here is the schedule for January 2026 Sunday night JARA/ARES net, remember it is your responsibility to get a substitute and to notify me of any changes. Also, please note it is easier to schedule you than to make 20 phone calls. So. Please just let me know if any changes are made.

| | 4-Jan | 11-Jan | 18-Jan | 25-Jan |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| JARA NC | KZ0IMO | KE0SYO | W0SER | KD7QOR |
| JARA ANC | KF0TXA | KB0YME | KZ0IMO | KF0ROB |
| JARA LOG | KB0YME | K0MDP | KF0KBC | KZ0IMO |
| | | | | |
| ARES NC | KZ0IMO | W9WTY | KF0RWS | K0MDP |
| ARES ANC | K0AWW | KE0SYO | KF0YM | KF0DQA |
| ARES LOG | KF0RWS | KZ0IMO | KZ0IMO | KB0YME |

Oh, one more. I need the order of hats (jobs) you wish to wear in advance of the World Cup. For example, one might do Country Volunteer followed by KCHEART and lastly ARES. If you have no other hats- let me know that as well. Send me an email by January 10th, 2026

Stay Warm, Stay Ready,

Roxann Kosmicki –

KS-LV-ARES ARRL® Emergency Coordinator

NET CHECK-INS

It's OK Here! By Foreign Correspondent Rick Reichert, NJØP

The Almighty provided a string of the most beautiful summer weather days Oklahoma has ever seen in December. Taking advantage of the winter reprieve, assembly of the SteppIR DB-18 40M-6M antenna begins.

The Assembly. When the instructions start out with, "If the antenna is to arrive on Wednesday, DO NOT plan an antenna party for Saturday!", they are not kidding. After a thorough inventory, much reading, and carefully separation of the various sub-systems to be assembled, I felt confident that I could assemble the antenna in a day or two. Carla's brother Donald joined me for a day to assemble the tower and help with the heat shrink tubing. A week of work later, I was ready for attaching the parts that simply would not fit while everything was in the garage. One and a half more days of outside final assembly and checks, with assistance from my son-in-law, Gary, and the antenna was ready for "the lift".



Pre-assembly in the new shop.



Fitting all the lengthy pieces together outside.

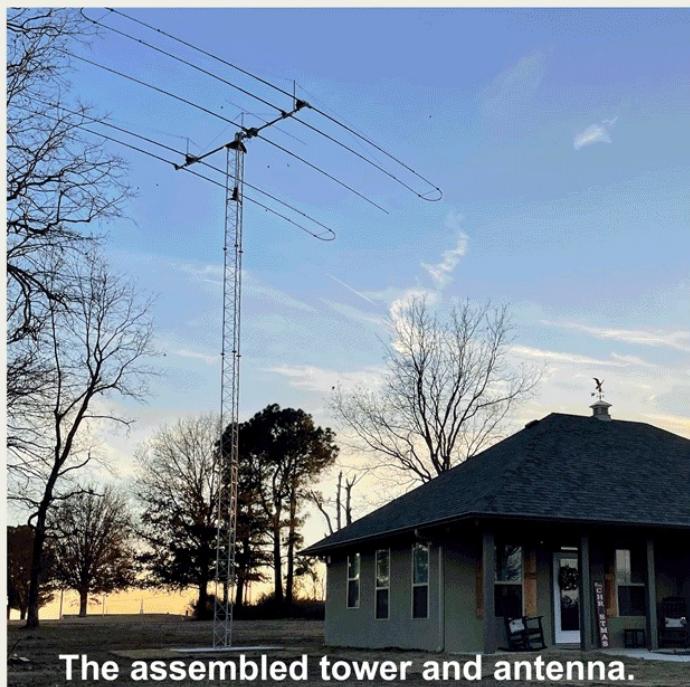


Rick assembles tower

The Lift. The crane arrived as scheduled. With Gary and Carla as ground crew, Don Cook running the crane, and me on the tower, it was time for final assembly. We lifted three sections that were already bolted together. Next we lifted the top section with the rotor, mast and top plate with thrust bearing. Lastly, the antenna itself was lifted into place. The antenna is a whopper. Weighing in well over the 97lbs specified in the manual, it covers a lot of airspace. The boom is 19 feet long. The elements are 39 feet long. After a rough start to the lift, Don the crane guy finally got the antenna around the tree, house, shop, and the crane itself to bring it gently down atop the tower while I guided it onto the mast and tightened the clamps. Whew!



The Hook-Up. My 92-yr young Dad, Fred (KA3BET) stayed with us from Dec 18-28. He served as ground crew while I checked for anything loose and lifted the three cables needed for the antenna: Coax, rotor, and antenna control. The latter is exclusive to the SteppIR antenna and controls how the antenna can mechanically lengthen/shrink and optimizes the antenna from 7 MHz to 54 MHz.



Next Steps. Although there is a temporary ground to dissipate static build-up, the grounding system is next to be completed. Shallow flint rock and super dry conditions are making the task of driving ground rods difficult.



By next installment, I should be able to report favorable results of my on-the-air checks. Your opportunity to be first guest operator is approaching rapidly. Let me know when you plan to come by.

73 de *Rick* NJØP in Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Up Coming Events You Should Have on Your Calendar

January 5th KC Heart

January 8th PKARC monthly meeting

November 11th Veteran's Day Parade

January 15th 6pm build session

February 5th KC Heart

ARRL Contest

17-19 January [VHF Contest](#)

15 16 February [International Dx - CW](#)

1 – 2 March International DX - [Phone](#)

13 April Rookie Roundup - [Phone](#)

7 – 8 June International [Digital](#) Contest

14 – 16 June [VHF](#)

21 June Kids [Day](#)

Some pictures from the Christmas party. More can be found at <https://pkarc.groups.io/g/main/album?id=306341>



