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CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

Meetings

Monthly on First Thursdays

Next Meeting Date/Time
7:00 pm
Thurs, Mar 5th, 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



The depot
est. 1887

From the President's Desk

Greetings everyone, Well it's March. The next three months are going to be important. It's going to be thunderstorm season with the possibility of severe weather. With that in mind please be prepared. Replace batteries or charge batteries, have a place so you can take shelter like a closet or storm shelter. Have an escape route to get out of harms way. Pack extra food and medical supplies just in case the need arises. Also, if you have a generator, now's a good time to get it serviced and start it to test it out. Planning ahead always makes a difference.

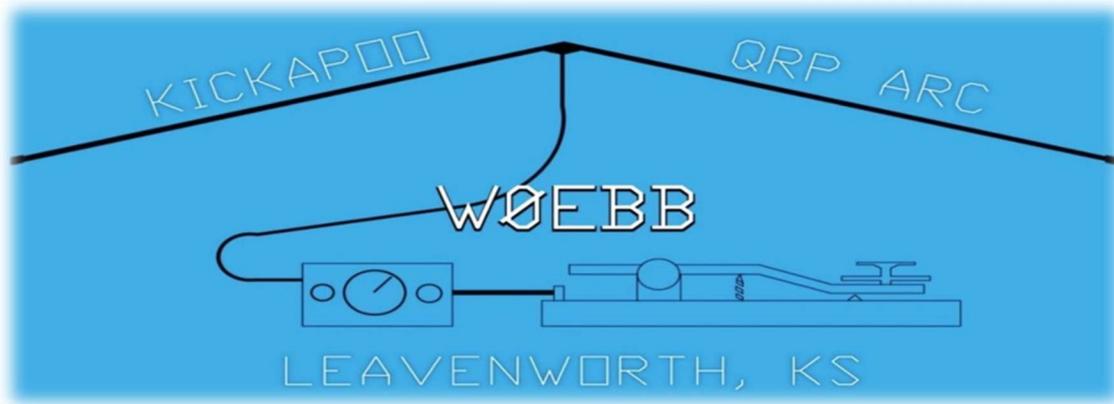
Edward Joseph Robarge passed away on February 9, 2026. Those who knew him will forever miss him and those who didn't will never have the pleasure of knowing such wonderful person. Even though I did not know Mr. Robargoen, I have heard so many wonderful things about him and his life. He will be missed by all.

Field day and the Dayton Ohio Ham fest will be upon us before you know it. I will be attending both this year. And it's my first time for both as well! I'm getting very excited and I hope you are all too. These topics will be brought up at the PKARC club meeting and all input from you is welcome.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for all the help and guidance that you have given me. Please be safe and please reach out to me if you need anything.

73s Stephen Fick

W9WTY



From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

By the time you read this the 22nd annual "Freeze your keys" winter operating event will be in the history books. Hopefully the weather didn't treat us to badly. I'll report on the results of this event in the April QRZ newsletter edition.

We didn't have an opportunity to go out and do any SOTA activations during the month of February. We were hoping to get a few free days to head down to the central part of Missouri and do a couple of activations, but the timing was not right. We always try to get in a few winter SOTA activations before March as the summits worth six points actually get you nine points. There is a winter operating bonus of three points in many of the SOTA associations and Missouri is one of those that participate in that bonus. Maybe next year we can plan better and make that happen for us.

The next event we are looking forward to is Ozarkcon in Branson Missouri. This is an annual seminar event held at the Stone Castle Inn in Branson. We will be doing several SOTA activations prior to the start of this event along with another group of activators coming from all over the United States.

Friday night starts the Ozarkcon activities with a banquet followed by a group building session. Martha and I mentor this building session and the project we'll be building is a CW keyer called the Mentho-Morse. This is a kit that fits into an Altoids tin which should explain the reason for my collecting Altoids tins from club members for the last month or so. We have enough tins so no more tins are required now. On Saturday there are seminars all day ending with a huge door prize distribution. Most of the hams in attendance win some prize so it's always a fun time. This year's event is being held March 27th and 28th. More info on this event can be found by going to the Four State QRP website and looking under the Ozarkcon tab.

Our latest PKARC build session has been centered around building a EFHW antenna capable of operating on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters without using an antenna tuner. We also built some coax feedlines to go with this antenna. Several of these antennas have been built and will be tested at the FYK event. This antenna uses a 49 to 1 balun and 65 feet of radiating wire. It's always a fun event to build antennas and hopefully people are learning how they work to get a signal out.

Other ham radio events in our future are the Green Country hamfest at Claremore Oklahoma. This is a two day hamfest with a lot of swap table and great prizes. This hamfest is held on April 10th and 11th. The next big hamfest is the big one in Xenia Ohio called Hamvention. This hamfest is the largest hamfest held in the United States and is held this year on May 15th, 16th and 17th. There are many side events starting before and during this huge hamfest. The extra event we always attend is called Four Days in May and is held in Fairborn Ohio. This event starts on Thursday the 14th and is an all-day seminar activity with a QRP vendor event that evening. On Friday evening after attending the Hamvention they have an event called Club Night plus a building contest. Then on Saturday evening they hold a banquet in the evening to wrap up the event. Last year I won an ICOM IC-705 QRP transceiver at the banquet.

As you can see, there are always ham radio events you can attend, but some of them require a little travel. Join in the fun and see what's happening outside of our local activities.

See you at the PKARC meetings and our weekly breakfast gatherings at the Depot Restaurant.
Gary Auchard - WOMNA



Secretary's Page



Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
February 5th, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting of the PKARC was held on February 5th, at Pilgrim Community Church. It began at 7:00 pm and was presided over by Stephen (W9WTY) President, Guy (KF0KOS) Vice President, John (KF0LNZ) Treasurer and Roxann (KZ0IMO) as Secretary.

Roll Call

Those in attendance: Gary (W0MNA), Martha (W0ERI), Ward (KA0STV), Victor (KD0PZV), Thadd (KF0PXE), Keith (KF0KBC), Stephen (W9WTY), Scott (K2SCT), Bill (KF0QZE), Jim (KF0VJV), Loren (KF0QAL), Roxann (KZ0IMO), Mark (KF0TXA), John (KF0LNZ), Ron (N0CALL), Loren (KB0YME), Max (K0MDP), Steve (W0SER), Phil (KF0DQA), Tom (KF0RWS), Guy (KF0KOS) and guests Michael Graveman and Rosealee Fick.

Around of introductions were made. Stephen introduced his mother – Rosealee.

Thadd made a motion to approve the minutes from January. Gary Seconded. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Treasurers Report

John read the Treasurers report. He reflected the December revised version for December 2025 as well as January 2026 transactions.

Thadd made a motion to approve. Loren M seconded. Motion carried.

Martha made a motion to have the memorial fund budgeted line item of \$25.00 be a donation to Blue Stem Girl Scout Council in memory of Tom Ward's mother who passed. Gary Seconded. Motion carried.

Gary was given the floor to talk about Freeze Your Keys (Feb 28th). It will be the 22nd year of this event and will be held at Weston Bend State Park. Gary will arrive at 7am to secure the location. Plan is to be on the air from 8am to 4pm. There was an emphasis made that this is not a POTA event but if a POTA contact is made you can log it. If you bring wood to the park, it must be purchased from a Missouri source. It is planned to tune the antenna from the build session at the park. Bring your own drinks (no alcohol). Gary and Guy volunteered to bring Chili and Phil volunteered to bring Biscuits and Gravy. Steve said he would bring cornbread. The group was polled and 7 members said they planned on attending.

Scott was given the floor to poll the club about Lewis and Clark. Members were in favor of participating. Scott said the date will be June 6-21st. He agreed to attend meetings and keep us informed.

Gary made a quick announcement that he obtained the permit for the Field Day site for 2026 at the VA Park. June 27-28.

Next, Stephen did a presentation about Emergency Communications, and some roles amateur radio operators might play in emergency situations. He started by saying if you have not heard the 9/11 dispatch traffic he strongly encourages you to find it on YouTube. You will be amazed at the chaos. He proceeded to define some situations as well as do an overview of some frequencies that we can listen to or join a net on. There was great interaction during the presentation. Gary mentioned the New Madrid fault and some recent earthquakes that have been felt in our area. He mentioned that some years ago they did an exercise on migration associated with the New Madrid fault. John mentioned the Great American Shake out that will take place on October 15.

Steve made a motion that we make a place in groups.io to upload presentations. John seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Steve gave an update about KCHEART. He stated that Kira was ok with KCHEART team having local training at the hospitals during the same days as World Cup events.

Steve (W0SER) was given the floor next. He did a presentation on how to send a picture using your Fusion radio. He walked us through the process of using a software application called FTM PIC to convert pictures to the appropriate size, what information to enter in the settings section of the application and then demonstrated sending the picture. A key take away was to not have a memory card larger than 32 GB.

Adjournment

Tom motioned for Adjournment and John seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Kosmicki, KZ0IMO Secretary



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** President: Keith- **KFØKBC** Vice President: Tom - **KFØRWS** Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee: **Roxann – KZØIMO**

March 2nd, 2026 SHARC NET supporting the **KCHEART Monthly Test**

Team 3 (KZØIMO, KFØKBC, and KFØRWS reports to SJH

Team 4 (KAØDJR, KFØKOS and KDØPZV) 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](#)

Also, if you have not yet entered your information in the new KCHEART database- Please do so using this link: <https://bit.ly/KCHEART>
Send the form confirmation to me when you receive it.

Roxann Kosmicki -KZØIMO

SHARC Net

Monday February 2nd
2026 1915-1930 Hours
147.000 (+) 151.4 Hz



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

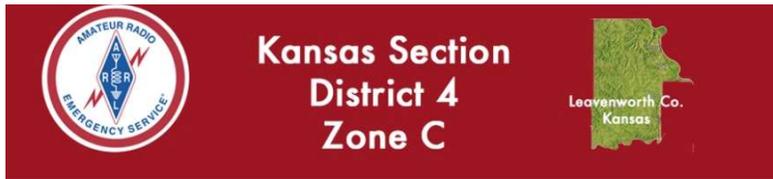
Leavenworth Co. Emergency Mgmt
Zach Phillips, Master Deputy
zphillips@lvsheriff.org

KCHEART
Matt May, Director
mmay@wycokck.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



Roxann Kosmicki
KS-LV-ARES Emergency
Coordinator

February hasn't been as cold as I thought it would have been. Which gave FYK 2026 a different feel. It was good seeing several PKARC club/ ARES members there. Stephen - W9WTY, Steve- W0SER, Mark – KF0TXA, Guy – KF0KOS, Max -K0MDP, Keith - KF0KBC, Don – KF0MGZ , Phil- KF0DQA (and family), Loren- KF0QAL, Loren – KB0YME, Ed – KD7QOR, Martha – W0ERI, Gary – W0MNA and several visitors. Guy and Martha made some awesome Chili. Steve made some cornbread that was yummy! And then the biscuits and gravy that Phil made- Very good!! We all had a fun time and wonderful food. Thanks to Ed and others who kept the fire going. I heard a few stations worked Rick – NJ0P down in Oklahoma also.



The following members attended the advanced weather spotter training held on February 25th : Thadd – KF0PXE, Vic – KE0SYO, Keith – KF0KBC, Loren M – KB0YME, Stephen – W9WTY, Doug – KF0HHW, Vic B – KD0PZV, Rob- KF0ROB, Pat – KF0YM and Ed M- KD7QOR.

Our remaining 2026 ARES Quarterly Meetings are:

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

On May 9th we will have a Table Top (Field) Exercise that we will focus in on two forms (ICS 214 and ICS 213). Keep in mind June 27-28 2026 is Field Day.

Please 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).

Let me know if any changes or updates need to be made to your ARES taskbooks.

Digital Mode Memo

RTTY: The Timeless Digital Mode that is Still Thriving

Radio Teletype (RTTY) remains one of the most enduring and popular digital modes in amateur radio, offering a unique blend of history, simplicity, and real-time text communication. First used commercially in 1932, RTTY was adapted by hams in the 1950s and has since evolved into a staple of HF contesting, DXing, and casual conversation. At its core, RTTY uses Frequency Shift Keying (FSK) to transmit text by shifting a carrier frequency between two tones—mark (higher frequency) and space (lower frequency)—with a standardized 170 Hz shift in amateur radio.

RTTY operates at 45.45 baud (RTTY-45), enabling a typing speed of about 60 words per minute, making it fast enough for smooth, conversational exchanges. It uses the Baudot code (ITA-2), a 5-bit character set that supports letters, numbers, and punctuation through "letters" and "figures" shift modes. While limited in character range compared to modern systems, its simplicity ensures robustness and compatibility across decades of equipment.

Modern RTTY is easily accessible using a computer, sound card, and software like FLDigi, MMTTY, or built-in transceiver functions. Operators can choose between FSK (direct digital signal to the transceiver) or AFSK (audio tones fed into an SSB transmitter). AFSK requires careful tuning—using 2125 Hz for mark and 2295 Hz for space—and must be set to LSB (Lower Sideband) mode to avoid reversed text. A common pitfall? Forgetting to switch to LSB and ending up with garbled messages—just reverse the tones in your software to fix it.

RTTY is especially effective on HF bands like 80m, 40m, and 20m, where it excels in decoding pileups and long-distance contacts. Its narrow bandwidth (~270 Hz) makes it ideal for crowded bands, and its resilience to noise and drift sets it apart from more sensitive modes. Though slower than PSK31 or FT8, RTTY offers a tactile, keyboard-to-keyboard experience that many operators still cherish.

Despite newer digital modes, RTTY continues to thrive—especially in contests and DX clusters. As one veteran operator put it, “It’s not just a mode; it’s a tradition.” Whether you're a newcomer or a seasoned ham, RTTY offers a gateway to global communication with a touch of history. Tune to 14.080 MHz on 20m, fire up your software, and join the conversation—one character at a time.

Sample Contest Exchange

CQ Station (P49X)	S&P Station (AA5AU)	Key Details
CQ P49X P49X CQ	AA5AU AA5AU	CQ Message: Used by the running station to call all others; ends with CQ to signal it’s a call, not a reply.
AA5AU 599 001 001	599 002 002 002	Call Message: Sent by the S&P station to respond to a CQ; repeated twice for clarity.
AA5AU TU P49X CQ	TU P49X CQ	Exchange Message: Contains RST (599) and serial number, sent twice to ensure correct decoding.
		Confirmation Message: Acknowledges receipt with TU (thanks) and ends with CQ or QRZ to invite new callers.

- No extra text: Avoids unnecessary characters (e.g., "HI", "73") to reduce confusion in weak signal conditions.
- Brevity & Duplication: Critical due to lack of error correction in RTTY.

Note: This sequence follows standard RTTY contesting practice to minimize errors and maximize contact speed.

This article was created using Brave AI

It's OK by Foreign Correspondent Rick Reichert, NJØP

No article for this month

Up Coming Events You Should Have on Your Calendar

March 2nd KC Heart

March 5th PKARC monthly meeting

March 19th Build Session

March 28th Leavenworth County Emergency Preparedness Fair

April 2nd PKARC monthly meeting

April 6th KC Heart

April 16th Build Session

May 4th KC Heart

May 7th PKARC monthly meeting

May 9th ARES Quarterly Training, Table Top Exercise

ARRL [Contest](#)

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](#)

Local area public service events [calendar](#) from Larrys List

Training links

EMCOMM-Training.org

FEMA [NIMS](#) training

[ARRL](#) Training

ARRL [On The Air Live](#)

16 Feb POTA group



40-10 EFHW Build sessions



Club Breakfast gatherings









