QRZ
Jun 2026

Official Newsletter of
Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club
Leavenworth, Kansas • Grid: EM29 • Club Call: KSØLV

Volume 22 • Issue 6

In this issue

CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

Meetings
Monthly on First Thursdays

Next Meeting Date/Time
7:00 pm
Thurs, June 4th, 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

Hello everyone, what a month it has been. I hope you all are doing good and have had just as much fun as I have. Several of our club members went to Hamvention this year. As going to Hamvention for the first time, I must say that it was an overwhelming experience. I was amazed by all the people and venders. The seminars were very informative, and I enjoyed them as well. If you have never been, I must tell you that it is well worth the time and experience to go. I will be going back next year. I hope you will join me.

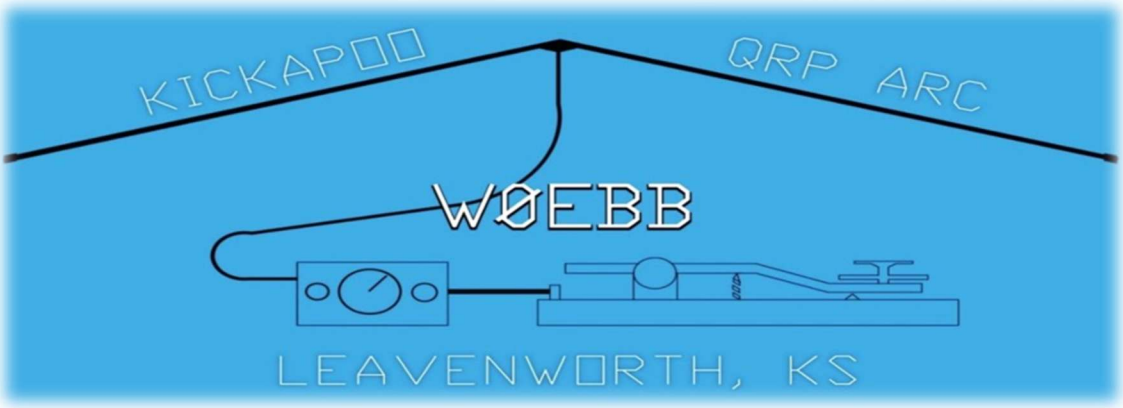
The club received several donated items for a Mr. Buddy Rogers in Leavenworth. A list of those items was passed out at the last meeting. The club board members had a meeting and have come up with a way to deal with these items that will benefit everyone. More on this topic will be discussed at the June meeting.

Lewis and Clark on the air will be June 6th through June 21st. An invitation has been sent out on Groups IO. If you can't find it or have not received it please let us know and we will get it to you. Please sign up for times that you will be on the air. We want to get all the points that we can get.

Field day 2026 will be June 27th and 28th. We will be meeting at the VA hospital park next to the dog park. It begins at 18:00 UTC on Saturday and runs through 20:59 UTC Sunday. We will have 3 stations running the entire time. A porta john has been rented and will be onsite. Also, breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please bring your own drinks. Everyone is welcome.

In closing, We hope to see everyone at the meeting on the 4th of June and at Field Day. I hope everyone stays safe and can get out and get on the air. Thank you all for your time and dedication to the Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club. 73s to all.

Stephen W9WTY



From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

May, the month of real excitement for the ham radio community. Why is that you ask? Simply because this is the month of Hamvention in Xenia Ohio which is by far the largest ham radio event in the United States and many will say in the world.

This years event was held on May 15th through the 17th at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center in Xenia Ohio. This is a great location for this event and much better than the older location which was held in Trotwood Ohio which is a suburb of Dayton Ohio. The old location was at the Hara Arena which no longer exists. This facility was getting very old and run down and after the last event held there an EF4 tornado hit it on Memorial Day of 2019. What was left of the facility was torn down a few months later. By that time the Hamvention had already moved to Xenia Ohio.

This new location in Xenia is very modern with a huge amount of parking on-site. There are a large number of golf carts waiting to take you from where you park to the front gate and back when needed. This event typically draws around 38000 hams from all over the world plus all of the ham radio type vendors there to show off and sell their products. This event is definitely one you want to have on your bucket list. My first trip there was in 1990 and I was hooked and have been back every since then.

In conjunction with the Hamvention event there are related events going on at many of the hotels in the area. Such events are Four Days In May for many of the QRP types. The Kansas City DX club puts on an event for the DX crowd that has a contest for copying high speed CW from a noisy background. The winner of the contest usually ends up with a nice HF transceiver.

This years events also included a four hour seminar put on by Yaesu to cover the Wires-X format. I'm sure this was well attended. There are also many other seminars that are held within the Hamvention fairgrounds. The ARRL puts out an app for your cell phone that will show you all of the seminars and other events going on each day. It's a well worth having app to have and is free.

The other good thing about the Hamvention is the food. There are many food vendors that have really good food for sale and we always look forward to that. Other things you might find are groups that get together for an eyeball or annual reunion. Every year the SOTA people get together on Saturday and greet and meet each other between two of the main buildings. Last year we had around 45 that showed up for the event and had a group picture taken that later went on Facebook.

The commercial vendors are always fun to stop by and talk with. About everything you have ever seen advertised for ham radio will be at Hamvention. If you don't want to talk to the commercial vendors you can always walk around through the hundreds of swap tables looking for bargains. Be prepared to walk a lot every day so have good walking shoes and a backpack to put your goodies in.

This year we had Steve – W0SER, Guy – KF0KOS, Steve – W9WTY, Martha – W0ERI and me – W0MNA all attending. I'm sure we all brought back a few goodies from the event, plus a lot of stories of things we did and saw while there.

I hope you can make Hamvention sometime in you ham radio career. It's an event you will never forget and talk about for a long time.

See you at the Thursday Breakfast gatherings and monthly PKARC meeting and build sessions.
Gary Auchard - W0MNA

Secretary's Page

Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
May 7th, 2026

Call to Order
The meeting of the PKARC was held on May 7h, 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),Victor (KD0PZV), Randy (K0AWW), Thadd (KF0PXE), Keith (KF0KBC),Stephen (W9WTY), Jim (KF0VJV) ,Loren (KF0QAL), Roxann (KZ0IMO), John (KF0LNZ), Ron (N0CALL), Loren (KB0YME), Max (K0MDP), Steve (W0SER), Tom (KF0RWS), Guy (KF0KOS), Don (KF0MZG), Jeff (KA0ARW), Mark (KF0TXA), Phil (KF0DQA), Ashley (KF0TKM) and Stephen (KF0TKN).

Stephen initiated the round of introductions after which he mentioned his excitement about going to Hamvention; others in the group also chimed in about their experience and gave encouragement for others to attend.
Guy was given the floor. He discussed the station set-up for Field Day on June 27&28th. The antennas will be fixed and members can bring their radios to operate. He will go into further detail after the rest of the officer reports.
Next the floor was given to Roxann. She asked for a motion to approve minutes. Thadd made the motion to approve as printed in the April QRZ. Gary seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
Treasurers Report
John discussed the April 2026 report. Thadd motioned to approve the April Treasurers Report. Keith seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Roxann was given the floor to talk about ARES. She reminded members to submit their ICS 214's for the Logging Contest, encouraged members to pick one new thing to work toward in the up coming months. Mentioned that those who responded to her post about World Cup should find a group email shortly. This will be the communication route for all things World Cup. On the 20th of May Steve and Roxann will be doing a presentation about KCHEART to the Providence managerial team. Also, July 3rd and July 11th has been approved by Kira Hathhorn, Emergency Preparedness Manager for Providence Medical Center/Saint John Hospital, and a sign up for that will go out in the near future. Next she referred members to the World Soccer Tournament Special Event post in the pkarc.groups.io as well as the post in groups.io about the World Cup Watch Net for those interested. Lastly, she yielded the floor to Keith to discuss the May 9th Training exercise out at Bernard Park.
Keith gave the time for the event (10-Noon), reminded members to bring table and chairs, radio gear with extra batteries. Roxann chimed in that if you have items you wished checked off your ARES task book to bring them. He then answered any questions.
Guy then took the floor to talk about Field Day once more. A quick visual poll was taken regarding those who plan to attend. Some coordination took place about which operators planned to work together. Some clarification about the GOTA station took place with Thadd placed in charge of the station. Roxann has a complete list of those who volunteered for what positions. Max will attempt to contact the Satellites this year. He will also bring his drone for the group picture. Jeff said he is willing to do an article for the Leavenworth Times. John gave an update on the Port-a-Potty and passed out a survey for dinner options. Gary gave a reminder about some safety items. Roxann and Guy answered questions as the came up. Stephen gave reminders about up coming events Hamvention May 15th and 16th. The build session on the 21st- bring laptops for setting up the N3FJP logging software. Lewis and Clark June 1-11th. Steve (W0SER) and a few other members answered questions.
New Business - None
Adjournment
Tom motioned for Adjournment and Keith seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Roxann Kosmicki, KZ0IMO
Secretary

SHARC Net
Monday June 1st, 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** President: Keith- **KFØKBC** Vice President: Tom - **KFØRWS** Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee: **Roxann – KZØIMO**

June 1st 2026, SHARC NET supporting the **KCHEART Monthly Test**
Team 2 (K0MDP, KD7QOR and KB0YME) reports to SJH
Team 3 (KZ0IMO, KF0KBC and KF0RWS) 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.

The first KCHEART simplex test of 2026 took place the 4th of May. It was to simulate a failure of the VA Repeater. Congratulations on a successful test! Loren entered in the signal report from PMC into the online data base. Steve entered for SJH. All in the Advent Health group were present and the signal report was made for our group. Awesome!

The follow up test for the May 4th test will take place in August.

Lastly, please check your email the signup genius for July 3rd and July 11th as we staff both PMC and SJH for World Cup.

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
Kc4wcg@gmail.com

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

Leavenworth Co. Kansas

Roxann Kosmicki
KS-LV-ARES Emergency Coordinator

We start off the month of May with our April Logging Contest winners!

Congratulations to our first-place winner Keith- KF0KBC with 27 points followed by Stephen- W9WTY as our second-place winner with 25 points and finally Tom- KF0RWS for third place with 24 points. It was a close contest. The logging notes were done well. They captured each of the calling stations' comments. It is a good skill for us to continue working on.

Congratulations once more and thank you for participating in my first sponsored contest.

May 9th, 2026 we had our TTX at Bernard Park. Keith did a great job planning and organizing the injections into the exercise and he briefed the participants as well. Our after-action conversation always gives us things to improve upon. I want to thank everyone for your comments. I strive to do my best to learn and grow as a leader as well. We all have something to learn, and I encourage you to pick that "one" next thing to improve upon.



I look forward to a few others putting some exercises together. I had two people interested in planning an exercise for the group.

Towards the end of May, we also began some training for a weather net. Both Tom and Stephen participated in this net. Stephen was net control/logger with Tom as the alternate. When Stephen needed to get off the air Tom stepped in and wrapped up the last of the accountability with me. It was different because I have been used to running the net from my car. This is something we will continue to work on and make adjustments on as we go. Here is the schedule for June 2026 Sunday night JARA/ARES net, remember it is your responsibility to get a substitute and to notify me of any changes

	7-Jun	14-Jun	21-Jun	28-Jun
JARA NC	KE0SYO	KD0PXE	KD7QOR	KF0RWS
JARA ANC	KD0PXE	W9WTY	W0SER	KF0TXA
JARA LOG	KF0TXA	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KD0PXE
ARES NC	KF0KBC	KZ0IMO	K0MDP	W9WTY
ARES ANC	KB0YME	KD7QOR	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO
ARES LOG	KZ0IMO	KF0RWS	KE0SYO	W0SER

At the end of the month, you will need to send me your volunteer hours for anything other than KCHEART, JARA and ARES nets. For example- you attend a build session or you make an item on the Task book list (you will need to show it to me), 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 (website is back online), CW classes or meetings for your AEC positions all count. If you are doing EmComm Winlink you will need to CC my rocketmail email address to get credit.

Please use this link to send me volunteer hours:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0kJOkv6b_oGmWpfZRwSw8ZDbDWDMXXXjC74jK-O7SMuPDPQ/viewform?usp=preview

Our remaining 2026 ARES Quarterly Meetings are:

September 5th and the October 3rd SET. Keep in mind June 27-28 2026 is Field Day .

Stay Cool, Stay Ready,

Roxann Kosmicki –

KS-LV-ARES ARRL® Emergency Coordinator

NET CHECK-INS

Sign up link for PKARC positions

JARA 3 May	10-May	17-May	24-May	31-May
* KE0SYO	* W0SER	* KF0RWS	KZ0IMO	* W9WTY
** KF0RWS	** KF0PXE	**	** KF0RWS	**
*** W0SER	*** KE0SYO	*** KF0KOS	*** W0SER	*** KB0YME
W0MNA	W0MNA	W0MNA	KF0KOS	W0MNA
NJ0P	NJ0P	NJ0P	W0MNA	NJ0P
KF0KBC	KA3BET	KB0YME	NJ0P	KF0RWS
KF0VJV	KF0KBC	KF0KBC	KF0PXE	KF0PXE
KB0YME	KF0VJV	KF0VJV	KF0VJV	KF0YEV
KF0KOS	KF0RWS	W0SER	KF0YEV	KF0VJV
KD0YZC	KF0KOS	KE0SYO	KE0SYO	KE0SYO
KZ0IMO	KD0YZC			W0SER
	W9WTY			KF0KOS
				KZ0IMO

ARES 3 May	10-May	17-May	24-May	31-May
* KZ0IMO	* KZ0IMO	* KF0KBC	* KF0KOS	* KZ0IMO
** KB0YME	** KF0RWS	** KD7QOR	** KZ0IMO	** KF0KBC
*** KF0RWS	*** KF0KBC	*** KZ0IMO	*** W9WTY	*** KF0KOS
KF0KBC	W9WTY	KF0RWS	KF0PXE	KF0YME
KE0SYO	KF0KOS	W9WTY	KF0RWS	W9WTY
KF0KOS	KE0SYO	KB0YME	W0SER	KF0TXA
W9WTY	KD0PZV	W0SER	KE0SYO	KD7QOR
KD0PZV	KD7QOR	KF0KOS		KF0RWS
W0SER	W0SER	KE0SYO		KE0SYO
KD7QOR	NJ0P	KD0PZV		W0SER
		NJ0P		KD7QOR EL
		KF0VJV		NJ0P EL
				KF0PXE EL

PKARC 6 May	13-May	20-May	27-May
* W9WTY	* KF0PXE	* W9WTY	* W9WTY
** KF0KOS	** KF0RWS	** KF0RWS	** none
*** KF0RWS	***	*** KF0KBC	*** KF0KBC
KB0YME	KB0YME	KB0YME	KB0YME
KFOKBC	KF0LNZ	KF0PXE	KA0ARW
KE0SYO	KF0KBC	KA0ARW	KE0SYO
KFOLNZ	KF0VJV	KF0VJV	KF0RWS
W0SER	KF0VHH	KF0QAL	KF0VJV
KF0QAL		KZ0IMO	W0SER
KF0DQA		W0SER	KF0LNZ
KF0VJV		KD0PZV	KF0QAL
		AA0MV	

4-May	17511 17512
SJH	PMC
* W0SER	KB0YME
KE0SYO	KZ0IMO
W9WTY	KD7QOR
KF0KBC	K0MDP
KF0RWS	
KF0KOS	
KD0PZV	
WA0MIF	

* NC **ANC *** Logger
ST short timer
EL Echolink

Upcoming Net positions

	3-May	10-May	17-May	24-May	31-May	7-Jun	14-Jun	21-Jun	28-Jun
JARA NC	KE0SYO	W0SER	KF0RWS	KZ0IMO	K0MDP	KE0SYO	KD0PXE	KD7QOR	KF0RWS
JARA ANC	KD0PXE	KD0PZV	KF0KOS	KD0PZV	KF0TXA	KD0PXE	W9WTY	W0SER	KF0TXA
JARA LOG	W0SER	KE0SYO	W9WTY	W0SER	KB0YME	KF0TXA	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KD0PXE
ARES NC	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KF0KBC	KF0KOS	KZ0IMO	KF0KBC	KZ0IMO	K0MDP	W9WTY
ARES ANC	KB0YME	KF0RWS	KD7QOR	K0MDP	K0AWW	KB0YME	KD7QOR	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO
ARES LOG	K0MDP	KF0KBC	KZ0IMO	W9WTY	KF0KOS	KZ0IMO	KF0RWS	KE0SYO	W0SER

FreeDV: development, current status, future, and practical uses

FreeDV is an open-source, low-bitrate digital voice mode for amateur radio that encodes speech with modern free codecs and transmits it using narrowband HF and VHF channels. It aims to provide intelligible, robust voice communications within bandwidths comparable to a single SSB signal while remaining fully free and implementable in software.

Development began in the early 2010s with the goal of creating a transparent digital voice mode that avoided proprietary codecs and could run on common hardware. The system combines an open-source speech codec (notably Codec2), forward error correction (FEC), framing, and modulation schemes suited to HF—typically PSK or QPSK variants—along with implementations that interface to soundcards and SDRs. The project is community-driven and maintained by a small team of amateur radio developers and contributors; source code, specifications, and tools are publicly hosted and licensed to allow modifications and integrations. The reference implementation is available as command-line utilities and a graphical application that work with soundcards and SDRs, and experimenters have produced embedded projects and integrations with transceivers.

FreeDV is mature enough for reliable experimental use on HF and local VHF links. It delivers clear voice at low signal-to-noise ratios where analog SSB would be noisy or unintelligible. Operational modes typically use Codec2 variants with voice frame bitrates in the roughly 700–1600 bps range, plus FEC and framing overhead; overall channel bandwidths are on the order of a few kilohertz, comparable to single-sideband. In many low-SNR and narrowband multipath conditions, FreeDV yields more intelligible speech than SSB, though it exhibits the characteristic digital “cliff” effect where audio becomes unusable quickly once SNR drops below a threshold. Cross-platform builds exist for Windows, macOS, Linux, and Raspberry Pi, and interoperability generally works well when software versions and configurations match. Some users have integrated FreeDV with SDR transceivers and small embedded platforms, but mainstream radio integration remains limited. Practical use requires careful frequency and offset calibration, stable clocks, and occasional manual tuning to cope with HF propagation variability.

Looking ahead, ongoing improvements to Codec2 and other free codecs aim to increase speech quality at given bitrates and reduce artifacts, improving intelligibility at lower SNRs. Advances in FEC and interleaving strategies can boost robustness on fading HF channels without introducing excessive latency. Future implementations may include adaptive bitrate and error-control selection based on channel estimation, allowing the system to switch modes to maximize audio quality and link reliability. Tighter integration with SDR-based transceivers and single-board computers is likely, and vendor-supported implementations could appear if demand grows. Continued community work on specifications, interoperability testing, documentation, and tooling will further smooth cross-implementation compatibility and user experience.

FreeDV has practical uses where narrowband, low-bitrate voice is advantageous. It is valuable for ragchews and emergency communications on HF when low power or poor propagation makes SSB marginal, often providing more intelligible voice at low SNRs. Its narrow bandwidth and modest power requirements make it attractive for battery-powered, portable, or field-deployed stations where spectrum efficiency and resilience matter. The mode is also an excellent platform for experimental and educational projects, offering hands-on experience with codecs, digital modulation, SDR integration, and error-control techniques. For automated voice links, relays, telemetry announcements, or remote monitoring where intelligible low-rate voice suffices, FreeDV can conserve bandwidth and power. Hybrid systems that combine FreeDV with other digital modes or mesh networks on VHF/UHF offer flexible solutions for local emergency nets or community communications.

To get started with FreeDV, install a current build on a laptop or Raspberry Pi and connect it to a soundcard interface or SDR; full-duplex SDRs are helpful for simultaneous transmit/receive testing. Begin on local VHF simplex or a known test frequency before moving to HF, verifying audio levels, PTT keying, and calibration. Use conservative FEC settings initially and keep frequency offsets small; monitor link quality and adjust power or codec mode as needed. Joining FreeDV mailing lists, forums, and on-air test nets helps with best practices and interoperability tips.

FreeDV fills a niche as a free, open, narrowband digital voice option for amateur radio. It is mature enough for practical experimentation and certain operational uses today, and continued improvements in codec quality, FEC, adaptive techniques, and hardware integration point to broader utility—especially for low-power, low-bandwidth, and educational deployments.

John KF0LNZ

Kansas City Distributed Communications (KCDC) Project

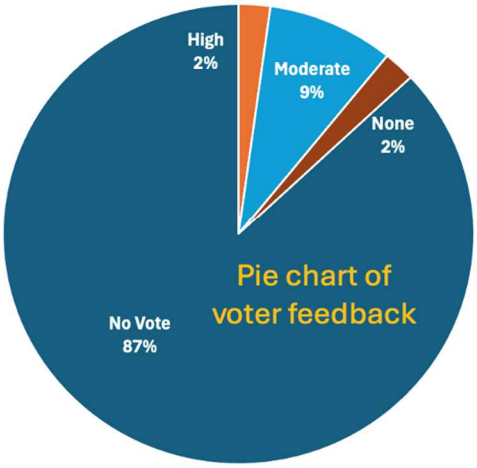
Contributed by Rick Reichert, NJØP, Foreign Correspondent, Tahlequah, OK

PART IV – Testbed

This is a continuation of the series about the KCDC project. The last installment was published in the May 2026 QRZ. Parts I and II appeared in the January and February 2025 issues of QRZ. In this issue of QRZ, we will look at the interest survey and the start of the test bed build.

Interest Survey. A link to a 1-question, multiple choice survey appeared in the last installment. Not including me, 5 members of our PKARC groups.io answered the survey. The question was, "*What is your level of interest in the Kansas City Distributed Communications project?*" The responses:

- Four (4) voted Moderate - Good project. Will participate as able.
- One (1) voted None – No idea about project. Plate is full anyway.
- Forty (40) no answer – interpret that as you will.

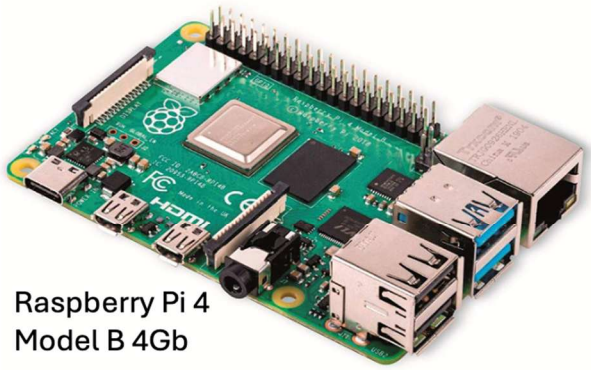


Survey Analysis. Without a local spark plug to drive this project and only four willing-as-able members, who I bet are already fully invested in the club activities, this project is officially designated a back-burner project.

Equipment Acquisition. After considerable thought, I decided to skip the microwave environment, for now. I'll be using a simple CAT 5e ethernet cable to simulate the network.

I decided on a Raspberry Pi Model 4B as the Control Head Surrogate. This device will accept a connection from a distant computer and perform the following functions without additional hardware:

- Pass commands to the radio body
- Receive status updates from the transceiver and send them to the distant computer
- Pass audio from the transceiver to the distant computer (receive audio)
- Pass audio from the distant computer to the transceiver microphone input (transmit audio)
- Perform push-to-talk (PTT) function by closing the radio PTT circuit.

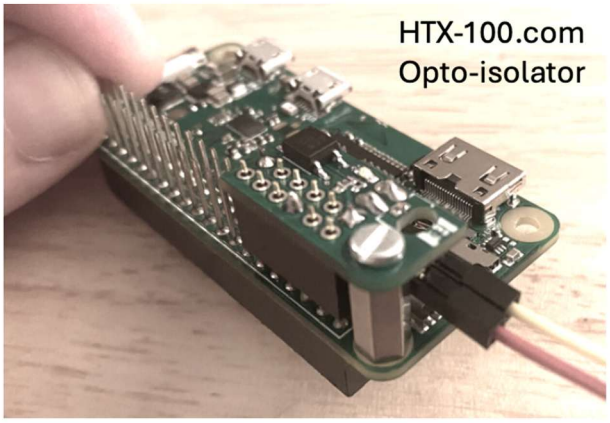


Raspberry Pi 4
Model B 4Gb

I selected this model because it has an on-board 4-pin audio jack. This is where the analog mic and speaker audio will interface the pi board. Secondly, it has a 40-pin General Purpose Input/Output (GPIO) strip. In addition to powering a fan, these pins can be used for the PTT circuit and a display panel.

PTT Voltage Isolation

To hedge my bet that the PTT circuit in the radio and the Raspberry Pi circuitry would not cause mutual interference, I invested in an opto-isolator. Also known as a *PiHat Raspberry Pi to Ham Radio Push-To-Talk (PTT) Trigger/Isolator Board*, the name is longer than the board. It attaches directly to the GPIO and provides an electronically isolated PTT switch. This should also help avoid having any RF in the PTT line affecting the Pi circuitry.



HTX-100.com
Opto-isolator

Current Status

The Raspberry Pi and Opto-Isolator arrived the week that I'm writing this. My next steps are to continue looking at operating systems and code that will accomplish what I'm looking for, assemble the boards, and set up the iCom IC-2730A. I'll use an ethernet cable and begin the attempt to talk to and control the radio from a laptop computer. If this works, I will have taken a giant leap forward in KCDC development.

IC-2730A

The Future of KCDC

Tahlequah offers a microcosm of the KC area from a Ham Radio point-of-view. A ham-friendly Emergency Management, empty tower space in the downtown, and hospitals on hilltops, provides plenty of potential for an initial local deployment of a distributed communications system. I may even attempt to apply for grants here to get the ball rolling. First, however, I need to complete my proof-of-concept. Stay tuned.

Loose Wires

WiresX. Many thanks to Ed Menard KD7QOR and Steve Rice WØSER for managing the WiresX node in Leavenworth. Thanks to Gary Auchard WØMNA for answering my occasional calls on the JARA UHF repeater. It's a comfort to be able to stay in touch and participate in nets.

Web Sites. There are three web sites supporting various club activites that are still under the Signaleer.us umbrella:

- KS-LV-ARES.signaleer.us
- JARA.signaleer.us
- SHARC.signaleer.us

See pkarc.org/affiliations/. I reviewed these sites and they are getting stale. I have not had the time or current information to keep these sites updated and relevant. The PKARC.org web siteand Groups.io has taken on most of the load, which is a good idea. It provides a single stop for all affiliate activities. What is to become of the three web sites listed above? Feedback welcome.

Pi Programming. I'm looking for someone with Raspberry Pi programming experience who is willing to mentor me or answer questions. Thanks. NJØP

Up Coming Events You Should Have on Your Calendar

Ham Radio Work All Stations 250 celebration (all year long)

June 1st KC Heart

June 4th PKARC monthly meeting

June 18th Monthly build session

June 27th – 28th Field Day main@PKARC.groups.io | Event: ARRL Field Day 2026 - Saturday, June 27, 2026

July 3rd KC Heart shifts 3-6pm and 6-9pm (two teams per shift, SJH and PMC)

July 11th KC Heart shifts 4-7pm and 7-10pm (two teams per shift, SJH and PMC)

ARRL Contest
6 – 7 June International Digital Contest
13 – 15 June VHF
20 June Kids Day
11 – 12 July HF World Championship

Local area public service events calendar from Larrys List

Training links
EMCOMM-Training.org
FEMA NIMS training
ARRL Training
ARRL On The Air Live

Photos