



Jul 2026

Official Newsletter of

Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club

Leavenworth, Kansas • Grid: EM29 • Club Call: KSØLV

Volume 22 • Issue 7



In this issue

President's Message	P.1
Kickapoo QRP Club	P.2
Meeting Minutes	P.3
SHARC & JARA	P.4
Leavenworth County	
ARES	P.5
NETS	P.6
Upcoming net positions	P.7
Guest Article	P.10
Elmer Notes	P.11
Foreign Correspondent	P.12
Upcoming Events	P.13

CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

Meetings

Monthly on First
Thursdays

Next Meeting Date/Time
7:00 pm
Thurs, August 6th, 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

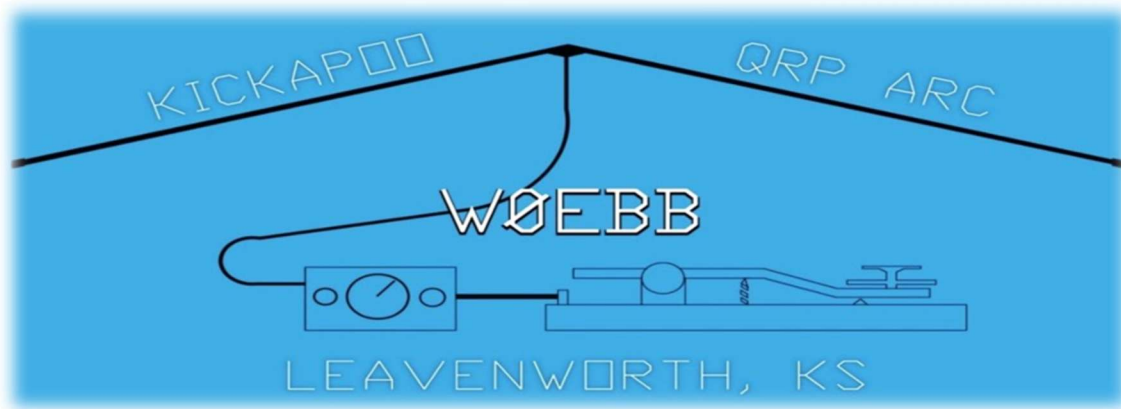
Greetings everyone, I hope everyone is healthy and enjoying the weather. The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club is doing better than ever. Membership is climbing and club meeting attendances are great. I want to thank all of you for all that you do. There are many of you who will help others in the club at the drop of a hat. And that is what it's all about. Again, I will say thank you.

As I am writing this, we are less than 48 hours away from Field Day. I have had my amateur radio license for over 12 years, and this will be my first Field Day that I have participated in. I hope you are as excited as I am. Gary, Guy, and Steve have done an amazing job of getting us ready. And I can't forget John; without his help we wouldn't have a porta john for us to use there. Thank you all for your time and hard work.

We will not be having a July PKARC meeting due to field day. So that will be putting the next meeting on August the 6th. There will be a KCHEART on July 6th. Also, July 3rd and 11th members of KCHEART will be manning the shark tanks and St. Johns and Providence hospitals for the FIFA World Cup games. September the 19th from 9am to 3pm we will be activating the Harvey House here in Leavenworth. I hope to see you all there.

Everyone please be safe out there. And again, Thank you for all that you do. It means so much to the club and especially me. Have a great day!

73s. Stephen W9WTY



From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

The month of June found us in the southeastern part of Missouri on a SOTA activation trip. This part of Missouri is where the bulk of the SOTA summits exists and are some very nice summits to activate. The first summit we activated was called Little Pilot Knob. This summit is west of Potosi and about 6 miles back in the woods, but the road in and out is well maintained. We set up and made 20 contacts with the longest contact being to France.

The next summit was called Shepherd Mountain and is near Ironton Missouri. This summit has two trails up. One called steep, and the other one called less steep. We chose the less steep but it's really a toss up as to which is the least difficult. In the last several years the city of Ironton/Pilot Knob has turned this mountain into a mountain bike run. In the process they cut a road right up the side of the mountain through the less steep path and made it a mess from a hiker standpoint. The less steep trail is not maintained so you have to hike up the road which is very rough in many places. You can have the people running the mountain bike operation take you up in an old Humvee, but it cost about \$60 per person. We hiked up and made 12 contacts and called it a day. The longest contact was again to France. Probably the last time we'll do this summit.

The next summit we activated was called Knob Lick. This is a nice drive-up summit with a great view and a fire tower on it. The view is excellent and we made 21 contacts on this activation. Our chaser from France showed up again and has become a regular.

Later that day we activated Taum Sauk which is the highest point in Missouri. This is also a nice drive-up summit with a paved trail to the actual marker. We made 11 contacts on this summit and the bands were not in good shape, but our chaser from France made it in the log.

The next day we hiked up Buford Mountain. This is a little over a mile hike back in the wood up an old jeep path that is not maintained. There is evidence of Civil War activity along the hike up and it was interesting to see a rock wall built back in the woods. We made 21 contacts and hiked back out and called it a day.

The next summit is one we had not activated for several years called Coot Mountain. This is an easy hike up to a site with a ranger house and fire tower on it. We made use of the tower for one leg of our antenna and a tree for the other end. We made 27 contacts on this summit and headed west to our final summit of the week.

The final summit is one of our favorites. It's an easy drive-up called Romance Lookout. We made 20 contacts here and our chaser from France showed up again to work us. Then we packed up and headed to Springfield Missouri for the night so we could attend the hamfest there on Saturday.

All in all it was a very successful trip and the weather cooperated. We had a number of contacts on our summits from Rick – NJ0P, Guy – KF0KOS, Jim – KF0VJV, Steve – W9WTY and Steve – W0SER. We made it home without any Tick bites or snake bites, but did have a few pesky big black ants we had to deal with. We'll probably repeat this same trip next year.

See you at the weekly breakfast gatherings and PKARC meetings.

Gary Auchard - W0MNA



Secretary's

Page

Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting of the PKARC was held on June 4th, 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: Randy (K0AWW), Thadd (KF0PXE), Stephen (W9WTY), Scott (K2SCT), Jim (KF0VJV), Vic (KE0SYO), Roxann (KZ0IMO), John (KF0LNZ), Ron (N0CALL), Loren (KB0YME), Max (K0MDP), Steve (W0SER), Tom (KF0RWS), Guy (KF0KOS), Jeff (KA0ARW), Mark (KF0TXA), Ashley (KF0TKM), Stephen (KF0TKN) and guest Fletch (N0CALL).

Stephen initiated the round of introductions.

Guy was given the floor. He discussed the costs of going to Hamvention. He shared his experience with the classes offered and showed the Hamvention booklet and offered to answer any questions after the meeting. He briefly talked about the May QRP party as well. Stephen mentioned that if you lose your ticket you will have to buy a new one.

Next the floor was given to Roxann. She asked for a motion to approve the May minutes. Thadd made the motion to approve as printed in the May QRZ. Tom seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report

John passed out the Treasurers Report and then discussed the May 2026 report. He asked if anyone has donated equipment or if they are spending their own money in support of the club to let him know so that those donated costs may be included in our budget going forward. Vic H motioned to approve the May Treasurers Report. Thadd seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Guy was given the floor to talk about station resourcing and signups. He had a big signup sheet on the board. He reviewed the plan on the paper, answered questions and then asked that members sign up for slots after the conclusion of the meeting.

Roxann was given the floor to talk more about Field Day. She stated that she would be manning the information booth and that Keith had put together a youth activity. Thadd has invited several Boy Scout groups to attend and is waiting to see if he can sign off on badge paperwork for the event. Roxann asked John to talk about the Port-a-potty however he had nothing new to add to that topic. She then talked about safety in Gary's place and mentioned that each station needed to have a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, flags for any guy wires, and a grounding rod. She encouraged members to let her or Gary know if you have ever suffered from a heat related event since secondary events may happen quickly, she wants there to be awareness on that. She also stressed hydration and recommended a 1:1 ration of water to electrolytes.

Roxann then yielded the floor to Steve R who talked about the logging software for FD26 briefly. He had the log in credentials on the board. There were just a few members present that needed the software. He stated he would meet with them after the meeting ended. He also mentioned that he plans to have opportunity for VE Testing on Saturday (probably before 1pm).

She briefly touched on the GOTA station. This will be led by Thadd and assisted by Keith. When the Scouts arrive Loren M and Ed M will cover with her help while the learning activity takes place (also Thadd and Keith).

Roxann then asked about meals. John stated he had his list and planned to order for approx. 3 dozen people. It was clarified that the club had voted for the cost to come out of the budget (This was included in Budget Plan Option B that was approved at the March 5th meeting). He reviewed the meal (sandwiches, sides and dessert) briefly then yielded the floor to Steve R who said that Keith and Thadd were going to help him with breakfast (biscuits and gravy and eggs). John reminded everyone to bring their own non-alcoholic beverage. Roxann then briefly talked about the W1AW message that Stephen (with her help) would be coping for the first time. Dick will also be coping the message. She then touched on putting the Winlink Message time slot on Saturday with Steve R and Loren M helping. Then she reminded members that after Dinner on Saturday will be the JARA (Jarballo Amateur Radio Association) annual club meeting followed by the SHARC (St John Hospital Amateur Radio Club) annual club meeting.

She then put on her ARES hat and congratulated and thanked ARES members for participating in the April Logging Contestants. Keith for first place, Stephen for second and Tom for Third (She will present during field day). Then she mentioned that on May 29th in the ARES groups.io she put out a sign-up sheet for KCHEART/SHARC members to assist Prime Health Care on July 3rd and July 11th. She forwarded to members who asked for it again. She then reiterated that both the World Cup Watch Net (PKARC groups.io post on April 25th) and the 2026 World Soccer Tournament-Ham Radio Special Event (PKARC groups.io post on April 25) are not coordinated by her but are available for member participation.

She then yielded the floor to Scott to talk about Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air (lctota.org). He pulled up the website and showed members how to look up stations that are calling CQ, how to look up stations as a hunter, and how to enter or delete your information into/from time slots. It was reiterated that you have to be in the state of Kansas to participate, use simplex only, and one station per band per mode (as in SSB and CW can be on the same frequency because they are different modes – also the program should not let you be a duplicate). He reviewed how to call CQ for the event. Then stated that he and Guy will be admin for the event so if you need assistance contact one of them. He also referred members to the PKARC groups.io post he made on May 28th which has the LCTOTA operators guide and updates. Some members requested the invite to be sent again. He did so while logged in to the website.

- BOD discussion points: Long term storage; equipment “as is”; value assessment;
- The PKARC BOD recommends donated equipment be inventoried, value assessed, and offered for silent auction for PKARC members bi-monthly at the club meeting.
 - For major items (eg., transceivers) the reserve is 50% of the assessed value. The unsold items set aside for the next hamfest table at 50% reserve. Otherwise, best offer upon return or rubbish bin.
 - Silent auction is cash only and buyer arranges transport if necessary.
 - The equipment is sold “as is” without warranty.
 - For minor items with value of less than 20 dollars will be auctioned individually (e.g., Heil headphones) or in aggregate (e.g., box of cables) during bi-monthly meetings. Else, rubbish bin.
- FYI- the club typically maintains one or two HF transceivers for club use.

Members asked questions and got answers. One comment specifically was to inform members that the club has been trying to accumulate testing equipment. Another was to about how Gary (as equipment manager) determines equipment values based on three local sites. After some time Roxann made a motion to approve the proposed “Donated Equipment Disposition” as presented. Thadd seconded. Further discussion took place and after which Roxann amended her motion to include clarification of bi-monthly to mean the even months and that Items sold in auction will receive no tax receipt because the auction price is the just price and then to include the wording after HF transceiver “or other equipment”

Tom seconded the motion as amended. No further discussion was needed. Vote was called for. Motion was unanimous as amended. Motion carried. John mentioned the PKARC/ARES groups.io message that went out for Field Day apparel from Roxann (ARRL hat). Roxann stated that it closes June 9th. Stephen gave reminders about upcoming events: Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air- June 6-21st, June 18th Build and Learn session, Field Day June 27/28, 13 Colonies July 1-7th, SHARC/KCHEART hospital manning July 3rd & 11th, Harvey House September 19th. **NO Club Meeting in July after Field Day.**

New Business - None

Adjournment

Stephen motioned for Adjournment and Tom seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Kosmicki, KZ0IMO

PKARC Secretary



SHARC Net
First Monday of
the month
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**

July 6th 2026, SHARC NET supporting the KCHEART Monthly Test

Team 3 (KZ0IMO, KF0KBC and KF0RWS) reports to PMC

Team 4 (KA0DJR, KF0KOS and KF0PZV)

*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 annual meeting of SHARC took place at Field Day. Here I am placing the bullet point version. I will post full minutes soon.

-We can congratulate those re-elected: Congratulations to Keith as President. Tom as Vice President and Roxann as Secretary/Treasurer.

- SHARC shirts will be given to new members at the end of the year and with 50% participation.

-SHARC fins are awarded after you have watched all the training videos. After 5 years you are encouraged to get a refresher course which will give you another fin.

The follow up test for the May 4th simplex test will take place in August if nothing changes.

Lastly, those who signed up for July 3rd and July 11th you should have an email that went out 6/29/2026 directly to those who signed up.

73, 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

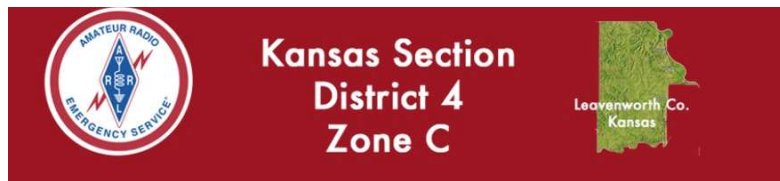
Leavenworth Co. Emergency Mgmt
Zach Phillips, Master Deputy
zphillips@lvsheriff.org

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



Roxann Kosmicki
KS-LV-ARES Emergency
Coordinator

June went from being slow to a fast paced time. Then Field Day was here. World Cup games and watch parties; time is still marching quickly as we look towards the fourth of July and the 250th anniversary of our nation. Some SHARC team members will be supporting Prime Healthcare on July 3rd/11th the last two matches of the World Cup.



Are you ready for the fourth of July? My kids will get home from camp the day before. I am hoping the heat dome that has settled on the United States moves on faster than it is predicted.

Today, the day after Field Day 2026, I have been loading pictures, sending out emails, tallying QSO's and scheduling meetings. The Net Control signups for July and August PKARC/JARA/ARES went out in the PKARC groups.io (today). For the most part I have given everyone a break for the next two months (scheduling will be recommence in for September-ARES/JARA). Come August I will be back at school by the 11th; and then MECC meetings will start soon after for the planning of the October SET.

I can't help but keep saying thank you to ALL our members. Life brings us different situations and/or opportunities as it marches on. I like to think of myself as a continual student/leader. I am all about growing and learning. With that I hope to make your experience fun, teach you skills to help you in an emergency situation (if it presents itself) and a network of people who share your interests, want to help each other and maintain a sense of humor.

I might throw you into unfamiliar situations, I guess that is my style of learning and I project a bit ;) I look forward to a few other individuals putting on some training exercises- maybe in the fall? Taking in your ideas and incorporating as we go into our future.

It is the end of the month and with that I remind you 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_oGmWpfZRwSw8ZDbDWDMMXXXjC74jK-O7SMuPDPQ/viewform?usp=preview

Our remaining 2026 ARES Quarterly Meetings are:
September 5th and the October 3rd SET.

Stay Cool, Stay Ready,
Roxann Kosmicki –
KS-LV-ARES ARRL® Emergency Coordinator

Sign up [link](#) for PKARC positions

Page 7|17

Upcoming Net positions

	5-Jul	12-Jul	19-Jul	26-Jul			2-Aug	9-Aug	16-Aug	23-Aug	30-Aug
JARA NC	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KF0KBC		JARA NC	KZ0IMO		KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO
JARA ANC		KF0RWS		KF0RWS		JARA ANC			KF0RWS		
JARA LOG	KF0RWS	KF0KBC	KF0RWS	KZ0IMO		JARA LOG	KF0RWS		KF0KBC	KF0RWS	KF0RWS
	5-Jul	12-Jul	19-Jul	26-Jul			2-Aug	9-Aug	16-Aug	23-Aug	30-Aug
ARES NC	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KF0KBC		ARES NC	KZ0IMO	KF0RWS	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO
ARES ANC		KF0RWS		KF0RWS		ARES ANC			KF0RWS		
ARES LOG	KF0RWS	KF0KBC	KF0RWS	KZ0IMO		ARES LOG	KF0RWS		KF0KBC	KF0RWS	KF0RWS
	1-Jul	8-Jul	15-Jul	23-Jul	29-Jul		5-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug	
PKARC NC	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY	PKARC NC	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY	
PKARC ANC						PKARC ANC					
PKARC LOG	KF0RWS	KF0RWS	KF0RWS	KF0RWS	KF0RWS	PKARC LOG	KF0KBC	KF0KBC	KF0KBC	KF0KBC	

Digital Mode Memo -- Yaesu® System Fusion

Yaesu System Fusion is Yaesu's branded amateur-radio digital communication system built around C4FM (Continuous 4-Level Frequency Modulation). In practice, it lets operators use both digital voice/data and conventional analog FM—often on the same repeater infrastructure—so people can adopt digital communication without losing contact with longtime FM users.

The core technology: C4FM and the “Fusion” experience

System Fusion is designed to be “FM friendly” by combining digital operation with analog compatibility. It supports multiple operating modes so you can choose what you need—voice-only, voice plus embedded station data (like GPS-related information in supported modes), or higher-rate data.

One key capability is Automatic Mode Select (AMS). AMS detects whether the incoming signal is conventional FM or C4FM digital and automatically uses the matching mode for retransmission. That's why System Fusion is often described as smoother for clubs and busy repeaters: digital and analog users can share the same system with less friction.

How it was developed (and what drove the design)

System Fusion was developed by Yaesu to give amateur radio operators a modern digital option that fits naturally into the existing FM culture of the hobby. The intent was not to force an all-at-once migration, but to provide a transition path where repeaters can be upgraded to digital while still working with analog users—using features like AMS to reduce manual switching.

At a systems level, Yaesu also positioned Fusion as more than “just digital voice” by integrating it with WIRES-X, Yaesu's internet-linked repeater enhancement network, so local users can connect to wider “rooms” and extended communications.

Depending on the radio and the mode, System Fusion can provide:

Digital voice (C4FM), typically with better intelligibility under weak-signal conditions than analog FM.

Analog FM compatibility for backwards coexistence.

Data capability, including features such as text messaging and higher-speed data options (and, with supported accessories/models, snapshot/picture-related functions).

Group/GM-style features (on supported radios and configurations) that support team-style communication and resource tracking concepts.

To begin using System Fusion, you'll typically follow this workflow:

- 1) Get a compatible radio (C4FM / System Fusion). You'll need a radio that explicitly supports Yaesu® System Fusion (C4FM). Many System Fusion-enabled Yaesu models include both handheld and mobile options, and they'll show mode/status details on the display when connected.
- 2) Find a local System Fusion repeater (and learn its basics). Use repeater directories to locate a nearby System Fusion-capable repeater, then note: 1) the repeater's frequency pair (and any “digital/analog” mode notes in the listing), 2) whether it's configured for System Fusion digital and/or analog output, and 3) any DG-ID or related identifiers shown in the directory info (these can matter for correct operation on some systems).
- 3) Start with basic operation -- let AMS do the work! In many real-world setups, the easiest first experience is, program the repeater channel normally for your region's requirements then transmit and listen on receive – AMS will handle whether the system is repeating analog FM or C4FM digital, as long as your radio/repeater are configured accordingly.
- 4) Experiment with digital features gradually. Once you can reliably access the repeater, try: 1) make a digital call in a C4FM mode supported by your radio, 2) use any built-in messaging/group features your model offers, and 3) if your radio supports it, explore WIRES-X connectivity.

Adding WIRES-X: extending beyond the local repeater. WIRES-X is the internet “enhancement” layer that can connect repeaters and/or nodes globally through online infrastructure. On the radio side, you usually connect to a node first, then choose a “room” to talk with others. A common beginner approach is: 1) Connect your radio to a nearby WIRES-X node (on supported models, this is typically done by using the radio’s WIRES-X workflow—often involving holding an “X”/WIRES-X button until the connection status changes), then 2) search/browse rooms and join a room to talk across the network.

A quick “first week” plan:

Day 1–2: Program one local Fusion repeater channel; make both analog and digital attempts (or observe how your radio reacts if AMS is available).

Day 3–4: Do a few repeatable digital contacts (audio quality/consistency is usually easiest to judge here).

Day 5–7: If interested, add WIRES-X: connect to a node and try one room, then try another once you’re comfortable with the radio prompts and display behavior.

To the new members of our club, “Welcome to amateur radio and the Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club!” If you’re new, you’ve already noticed something pretty special: the hobby has a way of packing technical talk and community spirit into the same breath. And if you’ve spent any time listening on the bands, you’ve probably heard two phrases that show up again and again—“Elmer” and “OM.”

They’re both about people helping people, but they mean different things. Let’s make it easy (and friendly) to tell the difference.

An Elmer: the person who teaches you on purpose

An Elmer is basically your guide—someone who takes joy in helping you learn. That might mean walking you through your first setup, explaining why your antenna isn’t behaving, or helping you figure out what buttons to press so your radio doesn’t sound like a haunted toaster.

Think of an Elmer as:

- Patient: willing to go step-by-step instead of assuming you already know the basics
- Curious: asks what you’ve tried, not just what’s “wrong”
- Practical: helps you troubleshoot like a real human, not a manual
- Consistent: checks back in because you’re part of their “we’re getting you on the air” plan

In other words: if Elmer energy were a tool, it would be the one labeled “How to learn this without getting overwhelmed.”

An “OM”: the person who belongs (and brings history with them)

Now, “OM” usually means “Old Man”—and in amateur radio it’s almost always affectionate and respectful. It can feel like a title people use because they’ve been around a while, learned a few things the hard way, and maybe watched the hobby change over the years.

An OM is often:

- Experienced: they’ve operated through different conditions, different gear, and different band moods
- Community-minded: they understand the “how we do things here” part of amateur radio
- Full of perspective: they might offer wisdom that’s less “here are the steps” and more “here’s what to expect and why”
- Steady: the kind of person who makes the room feel calmer just by being there

Sometimes an OM *does* teach. But the label itself doesn’t promise a lesson plan—it signals that this person has earned a respected spot in the ham ecosystem.

So which one are you dealing with?

- If you are learning something new and getting stuck, you probably want help from an Elmer.
- If you’re trying to understand the vibe, customs, and real-world operating wisdom, you’ll benefit from OM energy.

And good news: new hams usually get both. Many of the people who “Elmer” you are also the same folks who earn the “OM” nickname later—because helping others is basically one of the hobby’s core traditions.

How to ask for help without feeling awkward

If you’re new, you might worry about sounding “inexperienced.” Friendly reminder: everyone started somewhere, and amateur radio is one of the few places where “I don’t know yet” is not only acceptable—it’s expected.

Try this:

- Ask a specific question: “I’m getting low audio—where should I start?”

- Tell what you tried: “I checked the mic gain and swapped cables.”
- Invite an Elmer moment: “Can you walk me through the next step?”

Most hams love that. It’s clear, respectful, and gives them something concrete to work with.

The takeaway

“Elmer” is a role—someone who chooses to help you learn.

“OM” is a tone of respect—someone who shows up with experience and community presence.

Both are good for you. Both make the hobby feel less intimidating. And both are part of how amateur radio stays what it’s supposed to be: a place where you can grow, belong, and get on the air with people cheering you on.

73 to all,
B. N. Elmer

Update from 5 Land for July 2026

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

Kansas City Distributed Communications

I'll bet you were expecting Part V to appear here. Me, too. June has been a busy month: Lewis & Clark Trail on-the-air event, storms just about every other day, Field Day preparation, and my FT-847 went south.

Loose Wires



Lewis & Clark Trails On-the-Air Event. I had a lot of fun working LCT stations along the trail. My set up was like shooting fish in a barrel. I had a clean sweep of all states and the two bonus stations. I usually don't chase paper, but I ordered the electronic version of the Expedition Partner certificate.

Kudos to PKARC members who listed plenty of on-air time and actually were on the air. It was difficult copy on 20 meters from here but I was able to work Vic-KCØSYO and heard others. Missouri was the most difficult state to acquire. They posted a plentiful on-air schedule but were rarely on. I listened for traffic contacting them, but no joy. I listened for them on WebSDR receivers around the country, but nothing heard. On the 8th day of the event, I finally heard them on. Got 'em.

I worked the stations on CW, FT8, and SSB. I never copied any LCT stations on FT4. Since I'm not doing any ARES activities, my station remains a fun-only zone for now. LCT was great fun with a little challenge.

Oklahoma Wind Survival. The Oklahoma state song is, suprisingly, "Oklahoma!" from the musical of the same name by Rodgers and Hammerstein. It was adopted in 1953 as the and it's tune is known nationally,



Our flagpole in the driveway circle

including the line, "Oklahoma, where the wind comes sweepin' down the plain." I now know that particular wind is about 80-100 miles an hour. Good news. The storm on June 25th which clocked 80 MPH and dumped 2.5" rain here, didn't move the antenna at all. My flag pole, however, is now listing at 7° and needs to be replaced before Independence Day. We had over 20" of rain in June.

RIP Yaesu FT-847. My satellite rig, which I bought in 1999, has been my main HF radio and has been dragged to every field event since. This past month, it gave up the last of its RF capacity and took up humming. I think I need to replace a few capacitors and I'll be back in business. Twenty-seven years using that radio only replacing the on/off switch. Yaesu doesn't make them like they used to.

Puffy Evolve III Battery. For those who took advantage of the cheap Evolve III laptops from Microcenter a few years ago, I recommend checking them regularly. I was using one full-time for my WiresX node. Recently, I noticed that the case was twice as thick as normal. The lithium-ion battery puffed up and almost split the case. I pulled the battery and all is ok. I will put the batteryless laptop on my 12 VDC bus that has its own battery/generator back-up.

73 de Rick, NJØP

It's OK by Foreign Correspondent Rick Reichert, NJØP

Tahlequah, Oklahoma, October 31, 2025. Finally! The SteppIR DB-18 antenna arrived two days ago. At SteppIR's recommendation, first step is to immediately inventory all the parts and report any shortages.

It seems that this project has 1,000 parts. Inventory will take several days. The boom length is 39 feet, long compared to the TA-33's 14-foot boom length. Due to weight and size, I will need a crane to lift it onto the tower. I have more parts than the instructions call for and many parts are weird and not numbered. I hope to get the



The Wednesday UPS delivery of the new antenna.

antenna up in early November, but I fear that this will be the typical ham radio project: If you are not frozen with cracked and bleeding hands, was it really antenna work? Thanks to Guy, KFØKOS for the loan of a controller so I can assemble and test the antenna mechanics. The controller I ordered is on back order while SteppIR waits on parts.

Meanwhile, work continues on the shack. We now have power and light. The cabinetry is near complete. The radio console is looking very good. There are plenty of cable channels so wires should be nicely tucked away. Power systems go under the left side of the desk. VHF/UHF radio stack is in the shelving in the corner. Cables from outside



Amateur Radio console.

enter in the cabinet at the top. The low desk is perfect for keyboards, mice, and keys. Next shelf up is for HF gear and controls. Top shelf is for computers. The wall will have 4 monitors for all the various shack functions (logging, Hamclock, radio controls, propagation forecasting, weather, situational awareness, references, etc.) The desk is roomy for a single op but will easily accommodate two ops when needed.

I project that the building will be complete and ready to receive its first guest radio operator by Christmas. Looking forward to your arrival. 73 de Rick, NJØP

Up Coming Events You Should Have on Your Calendar

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

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

July 6th KC Heart

No PKARC monthly meeting for July

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

July 16th Monthly build session

ARRL [Contest](#)

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

There are many more pictures on the PKARC/Photos/Field Day folder.

QSL card from KK4ELO



FD 26 First pop-up canopy going up



FD 26 Verticals are going up



FD26 Youth educational activity



FD 26 Visitor operating GOTA



FD 26 Night OPS



FD 26 The morning after breakfast

