



Aug 2026

Official Newsletter of

Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club

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

Volume 22 • Issue 8



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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, what a month it has been. Rain one day and extreme heat the next. I don't know about you but, I have been soaking up as much air conditioning as possible. Where I work, its 107 degrees on a good day and I have to wear body armor on top of that. So staying cool at work it not easy. I hope everyone has been taking it easy and drinking plenty of fluids. Hopefully the heat will subside for a while and we can enjoy the outdoors a little more.

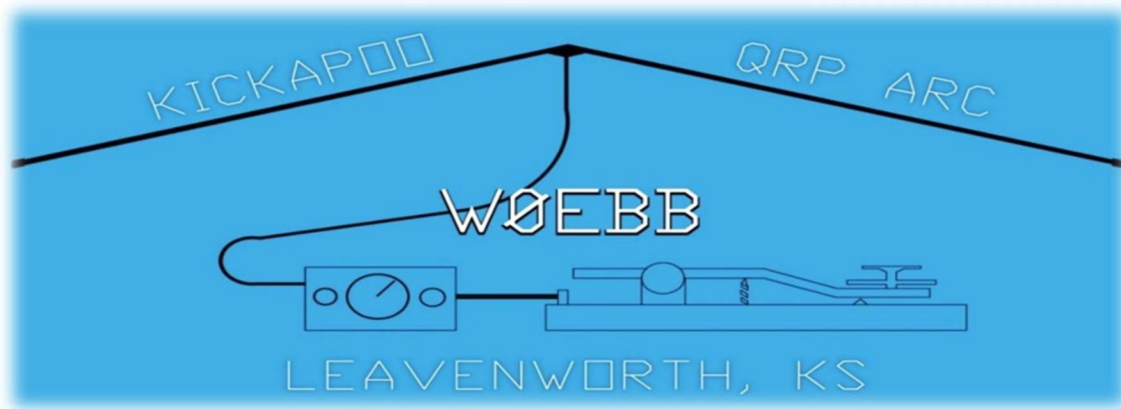
Our next meeting is the 6th of August. We will have plenty to cover. For example, The results of Field Day, up and coming events, KCHEART, Harvey House special event, silent auction, PKARC closet clean out, Meshtastic, and regular items of business. The Executive Board had a meeting on July 27th. Several Items were discussed and voted on. All of these Items will be announced at the meeting. I would like to thank all that attended and made the meeting possible.

The Leavenworth County Fair was July 28h through August 1st. The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club had a small table there with a good turn out. A few people stopped by and asked questions and a couple seemed interested in joining the club. I also want to thank Mike, Thad, Vic, Keith and Roxann for taking the time to man the table. I am so thankful for everyone that volunteers for events such as this.

Speaking of volunteers, we are in desperate need of volunteers to be net control, alternate net control, or logger for the Sunday night and Wednesday night nets. Please let either Roxanne or myself know if you can fill one of the spots.

Thank you to everyone for all that you do for the club and club members. 73s to all

Stephen W9WTY



From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

The month of July found us on the road to South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. The main purpose of the trip was to visit our daughter and her family in Montana, but we were also planning on doing a number of SOTA activations along the way.

We spent five days in the Custer South Dakota area doing SOTA activations. One morning we had breakfast with Bill – W0HG and Chuck – K0ORG two of the most active SOTA activators in that area. We also later ran into Gary – KT0A on a summit so it was a fun visit meeting other SOTA activators.

The first summit we activated was called Rankin Ridge. This summit is a popular summit and one we have activated a number of times. It requires a mile hike up but it's a nice hike with good views up to the no longer in use fire tower where we operated.

The next summit was called Mount Coolidge. This is a popular drive-up summit with a fire lookout that is normally manned but not on this trip. The view here is awesome and you can see some of the other attractions in the area from here.

The next summit we activated was called Bear Mountain. This also has a fire tower on it that is manned. We set up and operated and later climbed the tower to talk to the lady ranger. She had taken a picture of us operating and later emailed that picture to us. She was familiar with ham radio and we had talked to her in previous years.

The next summit we activated was called Mount Cicero. The road up to this summit was extremely rough but we made it up to the top. On this summit we ran into another SOTA activator, Gary – KT0A that we had been wanting to meet for several years. He was setting up to do a CW activation. Always fun to run into other activators.

The next summit we activated was on our way out of South Dakota towards Sheridan Wyoming for the next leg of our trip. This summit was called Elk Mountain HP and was on the South Dakota/Wyoming border. It's a bit of a rough drive up and way out in the boonies, but when you get there you will find a fire tower manned by a lady that turned out to be a ham and was familiar with SOTA. After we activated we climbed the tower and had a nice conversation with her.

When we finally arrived at our hotel in Sheridan Wyoming it was 111 degrees. It was a good time to get off the interstate and find a nice cool room to relax in for the night. The next day we drove on to our daughters home in Canyon Creek Montana where we stayed for the next five days.

While in Montana we activated a summit we have done a number of times called Granite Butte. This is a drive-up summit with a fire tower no longer in use, but can be rented to spend a night in. The road up is

rough requiring a 4X4 type high clearance vehicle. We were driving our pickup truck so that was not an issue. While there we ran into three retired couples driving the gator type vehicles. They were on a trip from the Mexico border up to Canada. Long trip for them but interesting talking to them. They were also interested in what we were doing also so we spent time explaining ham radio and SOTA to them.

The last summit we activated was called 7215 and is near McDonald Pass. This is also a drive up summit and has become one of our favorite summits to activate in Montana. It a nice drive up and had a number of hikers on it that day.

On our return trip we ran into a little problem on Interstate 90. Just west of Boseman Montana the low tire pressure light came on. We pulled over in a small town called Manhattan looking for a tire repair place. None existed there, especially on a Sunday morning. We moved the truck over to a flat place near a convenience store and started the tire changing process. Fortunately a young couple came by and offered to change the tire to the spare tire and said they do this all the time up there in Montana. Of course it being 90+ degrees we gladly let them do the work. They refused any compensation and that was our first bit of good fortune on the return trip.

We stopped in Boseman Montana and found a huge Walmart store. We told the person managing the auto section our problem and he said we'd get it in right away. Twenty minutes later the tire had been repaired, put back on the truck, and the spare tire put back up under the bed of the truck. I was elated, especially when he said the charge was only \$15.00. How can you beat a deal like that?

The rest of the trip home was fortunately uneventful but hot. Still hitting the 103 degree mark in places along I-90 in South Dakota.

One place we stopped in South Dakota that was quite interesting was the Minuteman Missile Museum just off I-90 east of Rapid City. Very informative site to visit and is free. Later we stopped by another actual missile site where you can walk up and look down into the launch tube and see a deactivated missile on display. Quite interesting and well worth the stop if you get up into that area.

On this trip we made a total of 85 contacts on the various summits we were on. The best long distance contacts were to France and Slovina. We worked Rick – NJ0P on all but one of the summits, plus Guy – KF0KOS and Steve – W0SER on a few also. Good SOTA trip overall.

Our next road trip will be in August. We'll be going down to Huntsville Alabama to attend the two day hamfest held there, plus stay in our favorite stone cabin on top on Monte Sano Mountain which is a state park and SOTA summit. I'll report on the trip in next months newsletter.

Hope to see many of you at our monthly PKARC meetings plus weekly breakfast gatherings at the Depot restaurant.

Gary Auchard - W0MNA



Secretary's

Page

Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
Call to Order



No meeting in July.



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 (KZØIMO, KFØKBC and KFØRWS) reports to PMC

Team 4 (KAØDJR, KFØKOS and KFØPZV)

*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 -KZØIMO

SHARC Net
First Monday of
the month
1915-1930 Hours
147.000 (+) 151.4
Hz

SHARC Annual Meeting Minutes for June 27th, 2026 at 1900

Members present were President Keith (KF0KBC), Vice President Tom (KF0RWS), Treasurer/Secretary/Trustee Roxann (KZ0IMO), JARA Trustee Tom (KF0RWS), Steve R (W0SER), Vic H (KE0SYO), Martha (W0ERI), Gary (W0MNA), Loren M (KF0YME), Thadd (KF0PXE), Guy (KF0K0S), Ashley (KF0TKM), Steve (KF0TKN), John (KF0LNZ), Ron (N0CALL) and Alex (NB1T).

Keith reviewed the activities over the last year. This consisted of an acknowledgement of all the support the team members have provided to Prime Health Care at both Saint John Hospital and at Providence Medical Center as well as the upcoming FIFA Back up net. He then referred to the JARA meeting goals since JARA members help maintenance the equipment on top of Saint John Hospital and the MESH dish on top of Providence. He cleared up that SHARC shirts are given out at the end of the year to new team members if they have supported/volunteered 50% of the year. The fins that go on the left sleeve are awarded after you have watched all the training videos and taken the quizzes associated with the videos.

Lastly, Tom made a motion that refresher training requirements be established for a 5-year period. Roxann seconded. Vote was taken. All were in favor.

Roxann was given the floor to address the election of officers. She stated that all members were willing to continue in the positions held. She called for individual votes for each position. All were unanimously re-elected. Congratulations to Keith (President), Tom (Vice President) and Roxann (Treasurer/Secretary).

Steve motioned to adjourn. Thadd seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned at 1915.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxann Kosmicki
Secretary

JARA Annual Meeting Minutes for June 27th, 2026 at 1830

Members present were President Vice President Steve R (W0SER), Treasurer/Secretary Roxann (KZ0IMO), JARA Trustee Tom (KF0RWS), Keith (KF0KBC), Vic H (KE0SYO), Martha (W0ERI), Gary (W0MNA), Loren M (KF0YME), Thadd (KF0PXE), Guy (KF0K0S), Ashley (KF0TKM), Steve (KF0TKN), John (KF0LNZ), Ron (N0CALL) and Alex (NB1T).

Steve Rice reviewed the activities over the last year. This consisted of a review of the status of WiresX (local access only at this time) over at Ed's house and the need to purchase a UPS and a lightening arrestor as well as a UPS for PiStar and Echolink. There was a concern about the laptop at Randy's house after the battery was noted to start swelling. Tom stated he was willing to donate a laptop for the support of Echolink at Randy's house. The PiStar at Keith's house is working well.

The topic of the annual equipment maintenance was brought up. The plan is to coordinate with Max to get a climbing date for the antenna test swap as well and the inventory audit (Roxann asked remote equipment holders to do independent audit with list and pictures) and the equipment maintenance (it has been 2yr since the last one) on the tower all in one day, if possible, in August or September with the goal to have all complete before end of year. Stephen shared his interest in being a tower climber. We briefly touched on the MESH status to the Leavenworth County EOC and it was mentioned that the roof repair is almost complete and yet the tower itself may have instability issues. That makes it tabled for future discussion.

Bill Gary has been a great help with keeping us up to date on the MESH software updates and answering any questions we may have.

The next item of business was election of officers. Roxann answered any role questions and then informed members that the only officer not able to stay on was Randy Brooks - VP. We had one nomination for Vice President: Vic Henke. Vote was taken. All were in favor. Vic was voted in as Vice President and Max and Roxann were sustained in office. Congratulations to our new club officers!

Tom made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Vic seconded. All were in favor. Time 1915.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxann Kosmicki
Secretary



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

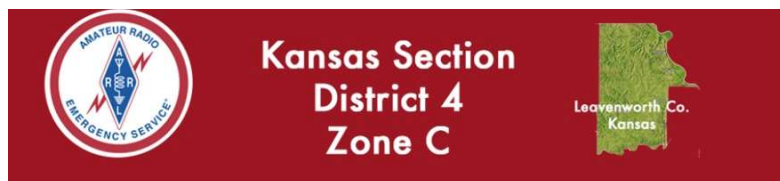
Leavenworth Co. Emergency Mgmt
Zach Phillips, Master Deputy
zphillips@lvsheriff.org

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

The month of July started with our SHARC members who volunteered to support Prime Health Care (See SHARC Article) on the 3rd and 11th. I appreciate you.

The past few days members of PKARC and ARES helped man a booth down at the Leavenworth County Fair. I wish to thank Mike Irwin, Stephen Fick, Thadd Brustowicz, Keith Collier, and Tom Ward for giving of their time to help promote our club(s). We also had club members supporting the Office of Emergency Management: Vic Henke, Keith Collier, Pat Atkins and myself.



AND...with that ...It is the end of the month. So, 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, 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 October 3rd SET.

The Preparedness Fair will be on September 19th (a signup genius went out on that on groups.io) this is another PKARC/ARES booth event.

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

Field Day 2026

Field Day 2026 was a fun time. I want to thank all of our members who took on various rolls for Field Day. Thank you to: Guy (working on the station set up and coordinating the sign ups), Steve (for making a delicious breakfast), Gary (inspecting our field stations), Keith (for the youth educational event), Loren and Thadd (for handling the GOTA station), Stephen (for takining on the W1AW transmission), Don and Mark (for helping with the station set ups where needed), John and Ron (for Saturday's dinner coordination and delivery) , Randy (for helping me submit the FD26 report for the first time) and too all our station operators of which there were several.

Thank you for making the day fun, practicing your skills and sharing you knowledge with others.



Here below is the submitted form. We should get the results for the submission some time in December. Be thinking of what you are willing to do next year and let me know. There will always be things to improve upon. Life is about growing after all.

Kind regards,
Roxann – KZ0IMO
FD26 Site Representative

Sign up [link](#) for PKARC positions

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Upcoming Net positions

	2-Aug	9-Aug	16-Aug	23-Aug	30-Aug
JARA NC	KZ0IMO	W9WTY	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO
JARA ANC			KF0RWS		
JARA LOG	KF0RWS	KF0KBC	KF0KBC	KF0RWS	KF0RWS

	2-Aug	9-Aug	16-Aug	23-Aug	30-Aug
ARES NC	KZ0IMO	KF0RWS	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO	KZ0IMO
ARES ANC			KF0RWS		
ARES LOG	KF0RWS	KF0KBC	KF0KBC	KF0RWS	KF0RWS

	5-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug
PKARC NC	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY
PKARC ANC				
PKARC LOG	KF0KBC	KF0KBC	KF0KBC	KF0KBC

August 6th, 2026

Silent Auction Items



There will also be some bins that are free items to be offered up. This is mostly random cables.

Notice: Club Members Only
Must pay by Cash or Check by the
close of Silent Auction which will be
at **8pm**.

If you are unable to attend and wish
to bid, you **must** find a proxy who
will be in attendance to bid and pay
on your behalf.

All items are “**As Is**”.

Starting **Minimum** Bids are:

- Alinco DR-590 2m/70cm
\$70.00
(With power cord and manual)
- Yaesu FT-5200 2m/70cm
\$50.00
(With power cord and manual)
- Yaesu FT-900/AT HF
Transceiver
\$250.00
(No Mic, has power cord and
manual)
- Icom IC-751A HF Transceiver
\$300.00
(With power cord and manual)

JS8 Mode: Slow, Social, Digital for Tough HF Conditions

If you mostly operate SSB—and maybe some CW—JS8 may feel like a very different way to work DX or new stations. But the idea behind it is familiar: **get through when signals are weak and the band is messy**. JS8 is a slow, narrow-band digital mode built for conditions where voice and faster digital exchanges can become frustrating.

What JS8 Is

JS8 is an **HF digital mode** designed for **reliable, interactive messaging**. Instead of trying to trade information at high speed, JS8 uses carefully timed, structured transmissions so receiving software can decode messages even when the signal is faint or noisy. The operating “feel” is more like a conversation than a sprint. You send a message, wait for the other station to decode it, and then continue—often with repeats and confirmations if needed.

How and Why JS8 Was Developed

JS8 was developed with a practical goal: **make HF digital communication work better in real weak-signal situations**. On HF, propagation and interference vary minute to minute. Many common digital workflows assume conditions that aren’t always present, or they move faster than most human back-and-forth. JS8 focuses on the opposite:

- improving the odds of successful decoding when signals are marginal,
- supporting clear, structured exchanges, and
- keeping the QSO understandable and “operator-friendly,” not just machine-readable.

In other words, it was built to help amateurs complete contacts when the channel is hostile.

What JS8 Is Used For

With mostly SSB/CW experience, JS8 is especially attractive when:

- **Signal levels are too low for comfortable SSB**, but you still want to work the station
- **You need to coordinate** (requests, clarifications, and repeat handling)
- **There’s a lot of activity**, and slower, clearer exchanges reduce confusion
- You want a mode where you can **stay in the exchange** rather than losing contact to timing and collisions

JS8 is also useful for learning digital concepts without feeling like you’re doing “computer contesting.” Even though software does the decoding, the workflow is still about good operating habits: send clearly, listen carefully, and keep the conversation going.

Possible Future Developments

Amateur digital modes continue to evolve as software and operating practices improve. For JS8, likely directions include:

- **more robust decoding** in extremely weak conditions,
- **better message and workflow efficiency** (less waiting, less rework),
- **stronger support for busy operating** and group/event QSOs, and
- continued improvements in **interoperability and operator documentation**.

A Simple Way to Think About JS8 (From SSB/CW)

To do well in JS8, carry over what you already know:

- Be patient (HF takes patience in any mode)
- Send clear information (don't be vague)
- Expect repeats and confirmations (that's not failure—it's how JS8 survives bad RF)

JS8 isn't about replacing SSB or CW. It's about giving you a dependable extra tool for the moments when the band won't cooperate—and you still want to make the contact.

How Will You Become an Elmer?

I learned a long time ago you don't have to be an expert with years of experience and libraries of knowledge to be an Elmer; you just have to have more knowledge and experience than the person asking for help and a willingness to assist.

That knowledge and experience is not something that is issued to you with your license; you have to earn it through reading, listening, experimenting, failing, and succeeding. Select a topic in amateur radio that interests you and read articles, websites, and books about it – lots of them! Try to reconstruct the projects that the authors use to explain the topic. Do your best to explain the topic to someone else. Sometimes, it is a good test to explain the topic to someone who knows more about the topic than you do. More than likely, you will come out of that conversation with more knowledge than you had going in.

Several years ago, a team of psychologists and neuroscientists sought to identify the perfect success-to-failure ratio. At one end of the spectrum, you have perfect success, and at the other you have abject failure... Perfect success is boring and uninspiring, and abject failure is exhausting and demoralizing. Somewhere between these extremes is a sweet spot that maximizes long-term progress...”

“According to the researchers, the optimal error rate is 15.87 percent... On good days you might tolerate a higher error rate, and on days when you're discouraged or tired, you might prefer to avoid error altogether. Some tasks probably demand higher failure rates than others, and perhaps you need to embrace more failure if you're in a hurry to learn.” (Alter, A. (2023). To be successful, you need to fail 16% of the time. In *Big Think*. <https://bigthink.com/smart-skills/fail-well-failure-rate-16-percent/>)

It's not only about learning how to get it right. Many times, the most important knowledge is how not to get it wrong. How many times have you released the “magic smoke” and had to replace components? And you certainly do not want to “get it wrong” when you are grounding your rig. The results could be shocking.

Now, what are you going to do with your new-found knowledge and experience? Of course, you are going to reach for more. Maybe you want to know more about the topic or a different facet of it. Have you ever tried EME moon-bounce? What about WSPR? Why does ladder line have lower loss than coaxial cables?

As sure as rain on the day you have tickets to the baseball game, you will hear another member of the club say that he needs help figuring out why he is not getting a decent SWR. Will you remember when you struggled with that same issue? Will you decide to help him learn and succeed by doing? Will you become an Elmer?

Remember to waterproof your coax connections and 73's, everyone.

-- B. N. Elmer

The Strange Case of the Russian Woodpecker

From 1973 to 1986, ham operators were subjected to annoying interference emanating from the Soviet Union. The “interference” was a 10 Hz pulse that hopped around between 3 and 30 MHz. The sending and receiving antenna arrays were massive – 500 feet tall and 2300 feet wide. The power output was massive as well: 10 MEGAWATTS.



At first, its purpose was a mystery. Theories ranged from attempts to influence weather over the North American continent to attempts at mind control of inhabitants of North America. This signal was disruptive, not only for ham operators, but for aircraft in flight, ships at sea, utility transmission, and commercial broadcasts. The Soviets didn't seem to care, ignoring international agreements, and complaints from around the world about violating the terms of those agreements. Think about that: 10 megawatts blasting through your attempts to communicate.

Intelligence analysts eventually put together a more plausible explanation for the system, known in NATO as STEEL WORKS, and in the USSR as DUGA. This was an over-the-horizon radar system, designed to provide early warning of ICBM launches originating from North America. The irony is that it never really worked, at least for most of the time. The Soviets were using this part of the spectrum due to the characteristics of ionospheric reflection. They apparently ignored the fact that the ionosphere can be pretty unstable, especially over the poles. That was apparently the reason for frequency hopping; if one frequency wasn't working, they would shift to another. As Hams know, the ionosphere is exceptionally active and unpredictable over the pole. The Aurora Borealis are lovely to look at, but they play heck with reliable radio propagation. Duga-1 was located near Chernobyl; Duga-2 in Eastern Siberia. Transmitter and receiver antennas were located approximately 60 km apart. The Chernobyl reactor accident seems to have been a factor in shutting down the Duga system. Duga-1 was well within the radioactive plume caused by the meltdown; it remains within the Chernobyl exclusion zone.

If you weren't a ham before 1986, you might never have heard the Woodpecker, but if you are curious, you can hear a recording and a short video documentary at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wB_jiigRq-c or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwgOdr9KFOM&t=935s>.

Update from 5 Land for August 2026

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

Kansas City Distributed Communications

Part V of the KCDC project is still pending. Problem is, I've been 'pending a lot of time doing other fun hobby stuff. So, maybe I'll get back to KCDC in the near future. Maybe.

Loose Wires



It's All About the Buttons and Knobs

In my last installment, I mentioned that my ever-faithful Yaesu FT-847 retired without a 2-week notice. After 27 years of being my main HF radio at home and yet dragged to every Field Day, Kansas QSO Party, and other field events since 1999, I certainly got my money's worth. I want a new radio from which I can expect the same durability. So, I spent the month of July shopping.



I used a lot of transceivers over the years but my favorite radio for in-shack use has been the FT-847. After using the Yaesu FT-991A from my fly-away kit in the shack for a while, I discovered what made the FT-847 a great radio. It was the buttons and knobs!

I've spent lots of time trying to pull weak signals from the mud for a contact. With the FT-847, I could press a button and/or turn a knob and, voilá, the signal was readable. On the FT-991A and many software-defined rigs,

where 1 knob = 1,000 functions, I didn't want to press Menu > Function > twist the knob to Menu Item 78 > Select > adjust > Unselect > Back > Back > Back just to narrow the filter bandwidth. What a pain in the colis!

After much deliberation, I landed on the Yaesu FTDX101 series. It has a nice life-symmetry. The first transceiver I bought was a Yaesu FT-101E. I purchased it used in 1981 from Larry Phillips, KG4D, during my first Army assignment at Fort Gordon, Georgia. That was a great starter radio and it got used on two continents. I think a PKARC member still has it. It must be the rig that caused my lifelong knob/button fetish.



Yaesu FT-101E

If my next rig lasts as long as my previous two, I'd be very happy. I'd also be very old. So, my "lifer" rig better be top-of-the-line. I don't care how many aluminum cans and returnable bottles I need collect, I know the money will be well worth the spend. The new rig is expected to arrive early August.



73 de Rick, NJØP

Up Coming Events You Should Have on Your Calendar

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

5-13 September

[Route 66](#)

11-12 September

Queen Wilhemina Hamfest

19 Sep . Preparedness Fair, looking for two volunteers per shift; 9 to noon and a noon to 3. Here is the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4AA9AC29AAFF2-64894442-september>

19 September

Harvey House

03 October

Annual ARES SET Exercise

ARRL [Contest](#)

Additional Contest links: [WA7BNM](#) and [Contesting.com](#).

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

Training links

[EMCOMM-Training.org](#)

FEMA [NIMS](#) training

[ARRL](#) Training

ARRL [On The Air Live](#)

