



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, September 3rd,
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

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK

Hello everyone, another month is over and another one is starting. October is here and weather is changing. It's still not too late to prepare for the winter weather that will be here before you know it.

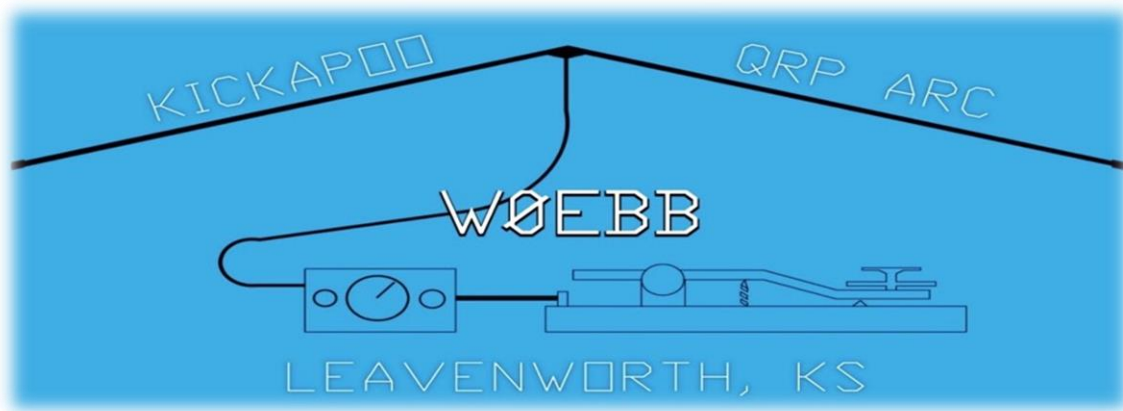
Thursday October the first we will have our monthly meeting. There will be several topics that will be discussed. We will have an update on the Meshtastic relay for St. Johns hospital, as well as setting discoveries that have been found. The Christmas party will be discussed, Veterans Day parade support, ARES update, and we will be having another silent auction. All items must go the night of the meeting, or they get discarded.

I would like to thank everyone that volunteered at the preparedness fair on September 19th. Even though the turnout wasn't the best, you still showed up and helped those that were interested in what we had to offer. And to everyone that showed up and worked on the ham bands at the Harvy House, thank you for being there. I'm sure we will have an update on the number of contacts that were made at the meeting.

I wish everyone a safe and productive month.

Thank you all for all that you do and we will see you further down the log!

73s



From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

The month of September found us at one of our favorite hamfests in Arkansas. This hamfest is known as the Mena Arkansas hamfest and has been going on for many years. This hamfest is held in a big field inside the Queen Wilhelmina State Park grounds. There are a number of RV and tent sites, plus a very nice lodge we stay in every year.

The state sets up two large open shelters for those that pay to set up under them, and the rest of the vendors set up in the open field just to the west of the shelters. This is a very easy hamfest to get to and is well attended with nice prizes given out hourly, and a big prize drawing at the end of each day of Friday and Saturday.

The hamfest was a bit delayed opening on Friday due to storms that came through and left a lot of rain on the ground from the night before, but it didn't take long for that to go away and turn nice. On Saturday the weather was clear and warm until a fast-moving rain storm came through again and pretty much got most things wet that were not tied down or covered. In the end it turned out nice again and the final prizes were drawn. I picked up a few small items and Martha managed to sell most all of the radio items she wanted to get rid of so it was a good hamfest.

The other reasons we attend this hamfest are the fair number of summits we can activate while in the area. On the way down we activated a summit called Cavanal Mountain in Oklahoma. This is a drive-up summit with a small shelter and lots of towers. The line noise is a bit high here but how you place the end of your dipole makes a difference.

The next day we took off early from the lodge and activated four summits by the end of the day. The first summit was called 2290 in Oklahoma and is right off the side of the highway. Easy to operate from and we made plenty of contacts on 20 and 40 meters.

The next summit was called Sycamore Lookout in Oklahoma and is another drive-up that is next to a cell tower and repeater site. There is a large weather station located in the field where we set up to operate. It looks like a big spider in a way and has been there for a long time. We made plenty of contacts on 20 and 40 meters and moved on as the day was warming up quite a bit.

The next summit was called Lennox Ridge in Oklahoma. This summit is another drive-up but about four miles back in the woods on a rough mountain type road. The setup is right next to the road and in a shady area. We operated 40 and 20 meters and made plenty of contacts.

The last summit of the day was called Rich Mountain and is in Arkansas and about four miles east of the Queen Wilhelmina State Park lodge. It's an easy drive-up with an old fire tower on it. We set up and made a bunch of contacts on 40 and 20 meters here and called it a day. We went back to the lodge and had dinner and planned our next activation for the next day.

The next day we took on a summit with a good challenge for us. This summit is called Winding Stair and is in Oklahoma. The trail up is a rough, rocky path of one mile of mostly uphill climbing. At the top the trail levels out somewhat for another two tenths of a mile to the shelter where we set up and operated. There used to be a fire tower on this summit but it was removed years ago. The shelter is very nice and a great place to camp as there is a picnic table and fire pit there. You can actually set up a tent if necessary, inside the shelter as it's a fair-sized structure. The hike back down was long and took us about two hours and a half to make the round trip plus operate for forty five minutes. That hike was our main plan for the day and we returned to the lodge for dinner and to rest.

The next two days were spent at the hamfest and we had a good time visiting with our two friends from Colorado and Louisiana that joined us there.

The final day we took on our final summit for the trip. This summit was called Poteau Mountain and is in Arkansas. This summit is quite a ways back in the woods on typical mountain roads. It is a drive-up summit but not one you can get to quickly. The summit is a large communication site with a number of towers on it. We set up in our usual place and made a good number of contacts on 40 and 20 meters. Then made the trip back down to the lodge and started packing up for the trip home the next day.

I did manage to work Rick – NJ0P, Steve – W0SER and Guy – KF0KOS on this trip from the summits and that was fun. I was mostly using both of my 40/20 trap dipole antennas we built in one of our PKARC build sessions. They performed well as usual, but somehow, I managed to break the wire in both of them. I did a quick field repair and got them back on the air. I have now correctly repaired them and they are ready for the next trip down that way in early November.

Overall, it was a successful trip and an enjoyable one for us. We look forward to this trip every year and have already secured our room at the lodge for next year.

Hope to see you at the breakfast gatherings at the Depot Restaurant and the monthly 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 September 3rd, 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), Vic (KE0SYO), Roxann (KZ0IMO), John (KF0LNZ), Ron (N0CALL), Loren (KB0YME), Max (K0MDP), Tom (KF0RWS), Guy (KF0KOS), Mark (KF0TXA), Ashley (KF0TKM), Stephen (KF0TKN) Martha (W0ERI), Gary (W0MNA), Jim (W0MLT), Alex (NB1T) and wife Tina, Jeff (KA0ARW) Emily (AF0GV), Phil (KF0DQA) and wife, Don (KF0MZG), Mike (KE0GEX) and new member Robert (KI5FFE and guest Ron (N0CALL)..

Stephen initiated the round of introductions with the membership.

Stephen gave Ashley the floor to talk about the upcoming Enser Auction October 16-17. She shared how you can get tickets and answered questions.

Guy was given the floor. He reviewed the upcoming Fred Harvey House special event station and asked Roxann to share about the Preparedness Fair since both were taking place on the same day. Next, he talked about the December Christmas party.

Next Roxann asked for a motion to approve the August minutes. Vic H made the motion to approve as printed in the September QRZ. Tom seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Then she talked about the SHARC net and KCHEART followed by the ARES meeting scheduled for September 5th. She answered any questions.

Treasurers Report

John passed out the Treasurers Report and then discussed the Financials for August.

Vic made a motion to approve August Treasures Report. Gary Seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Guy shared a video about Ham Shacks and said he would bring an example of his on for October.

Phil was given the floor to do a presentation on the CRT CPRC-26. He presented a slide show and took questions. Next Gary did a presentation on the AN/PRC-77 after which he took questions and then shared a story about the keyer from 1923 that he found. He asked that they come up front to view all items presented.

Guy then led an overview of the Kansas QSO party and shared some pictures. Mike, Vic, and Emily all participated and shared how it went for them.

Gary was given the floor to talk about the next build session which is to be an expansion device. He passed around the item and then there was some discussion.

New Business – There was some discussion about the tower climb date. Max said he could do October 24 at 9am. Martha briefly mentioned that Roxann, Gary and herself cleaned out the club cabinet and we had some historical QRP cards if anyone was interested.

Adjournment

Vic motioned for Adjournment and Gary seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 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**

October 1st, 2026, SHARC NET supporting the KCHEART Monthly Test

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

Team 3 (KZØIMO, KFØKBC AND KFØRWS) 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.

Welcome to FALL. As we start to think about 2027, I just wanted to put a little teaser out there to see if there were any teams that would like to give it a go to operate as Net Control for the KCHEART net. They typically take sign ups at our annual meeting in January. So, I encourage you to talk as a team and let me know, or even better come to the meeting and sign up.

Kind Regards,

Roxann Kosmicki -KZØIMO



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

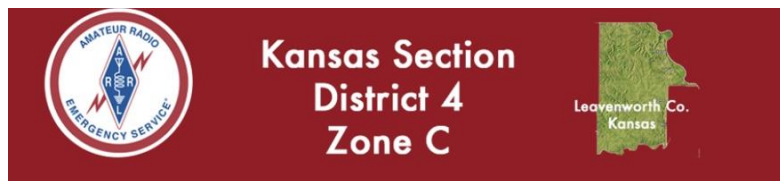
Leavenworth Co. Emergency Mgmt
Zach Phillips, Master Deputy
zphillips@lvsheriff.org

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

Hi Hi Everyone!

I hope you have enjoyed the cool weather these last couple of days.

September was a busy month for us. First with our Q3 ARES meeting on September 5th at which we conducted some business in preparation for 2027. A summary of that meeting can be found in groups.io dated September 5th.

On the 19th of September we had a table at the Preparedness Fair. Unfortunately, under new leadership we did not get our usual turn out of visitors. I shared some feedback with them on how it could be better for next year. We shared the desire to have it in March since that puts it closer to our bad weather season.

I want to put a shout out to: Stephen, Tom and Loren M for helping staff that event. I appreciate it.

Next, we had the Fred Harvey Event Station going on that same day. So, I stopped in and said Hi to those who were there.



Gary at PKARC meeting



Phil at PKARC meeting



Max at Harvey House

Backing up a bit:

I also enjoyed the military radio presentation from the PKARC club meeting on September 3rd.

Right after the Preparedness Fair I headed down to Arkansas to participate in the Central States Communications Exercise to keep my AUXC task book up to date. I traveled with Sandy (KF0MCI) from Johnson County ARES. Then we met up with Curt Moore (N0JCM) and Matt Hostetler (KE0ZZU) who both were from Johnson County ECS (Emergency Communications Service). On Tuesday, we met up with Rick (NJ0P) for lunch. I failed to take pictures regrettably. Curt and Rick were in the same division. It was nice to network and catch up with those who returned this year from the 2024 CommEx from the state of Kansas.

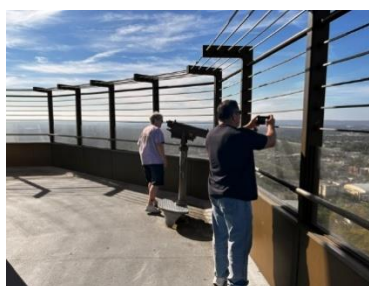
Cont...



Roxann, Humberto and Sandy



Hot Springs AR



Top of the tower in Hot Springs



Turning in Cache Radio with EF Johnson Representative



Humberto- Communications Leader (T) from KDEM (Kansas Department of Emergency Management)



Me sitting in the Verizon mobile Starlink (only sit-no driving)



Sitting with other Comms members from Kansas (Alan, Martin, from Cowley Co, Adam from KDEM SWIC and Travis COML from Shawnee)

I hope to share what I have learned and it is my hope that I continue to develop my skills to enhance my leadership skills as your ARRL ARES Emergency Coordinator.

With that shared. Let us look towards our October 3rd Direction Finding Exercise at Bernard Park at 9am. Please note, I will send out a page that you can respond to via email to let me know that you are attending. If anyone outside of the ARES groups.io would like to attend, please just let me know and I will send you the notification as well.

As always at the end of the month..... 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

CONT.....

Sign up [link](#) for PKARC positions

Sign up [link](#) for PKARC positions

[illegible]

Upcoming Net positions

	4-Oct	11-Oct	18-Oct	25-Oct
JARA NC				
JARA ANC			KF0RWS	
JARA LOG	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY
	4-Oct	11-Oct	18-Oct	25-Oct
ARES NC	KE0SYO	KF0RWS	KZ0IMO	KF0RWS
ARES ANC				
ARES LOG	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY	W9WTY

	7-Oct	14-Oct	21-Oct	28-Oct
PKARC NC	W0SER	W0SER	W0SER	W0SER
PKARC ANC	KF0PXE	KF0PXE	KF0PXE	KF0PXE
PKARC LOG				

VARA and Winlink Express: A Digital Communications Overview

VARA and Winlink Express have become important tools in modern amateur radio, providing reliable ways to send messages, forms, files, and position reports over radio. Their usefulness is especially apparent when internet, telephone, and cellular systems are unavailable.

Winlink's history began in the early 1980s with Amlink, a radio mailbox system developed by Victor Poor, W5SMM. It used modes such as AMTOR and packet radio to move messages through HF and VHF/UHF networks. Over time, the system evolved from a collection of radio mailboxes into a global radio-email network connected to the internet. Winlink has been used by amateur operators, maritime users, military organizations, emergency communicators, and remote expeditions.

Winlink Express is the modern client application used to access the Winlink network. It supports several digital modes, including VARA HF, VARA FM, ARDOP, packet, and PACTOR. Operators can use it to send email through radio gateways, exchange messages directly with another station, complete standardized emergency forms, transmit files, send position reports, obtain weather information, and maintain communication logs. The program can work through internet-connected gateways or in peer-to-peer mode when no internet connection is available.

VARA is a family of software modems developed by José Alberto Nieto Ros, EA5HVK. Instead of requiring a dedicated hardware modem, VARA uses a computer's sound system to encode and decode radio signals. VARA HF is designed for high-frequency single-sideband communication, while VARA FM is used on VHF and UHF. Other versions support satellite and direct station-to-station applications.

VARA became particularly important to Winlink as a modern alternative to older modes such as PACTOR and WINMOR. Its variable-rate design allows it to adjust transmission speed according to channel conditions. When signals are strong and interference is low, VARA can operate at higher speeds. When fading or noise affects the link, it can slow down and use more robust signaling. This adaptability makes it well suited to the changing conditions commonly found on HF radio.

Modern applications include emergency communications, maritime messaging, remote expeditions, public-service events, and field exercises. Winlink is particularly useful for structured traffic such as incident reports, shelter information, resource requests, and status updates. Voice remains important for tactical communication, while Winlink is better suited to formal, non-real-time messages.

Reliable operation depends on proper station setup. Operators must configure audio levels, PTT, CAT control, radio modes, sound-card connections, and frequencies correctly. Regular practice is essential, including gateway operation, peer-to-peer sessions, battery-powered deployment, form transmission, and backup modes.

The future of VARA and Winlink will likely include improved software modems, better decoding in weak-signal conditions, broader operating-system support, smaller portable stations, and closer integration with emergency-management systems. Ultimately, their value depends not only on technical capabilities but also on operator training. Regular exercises help ensure that these digital tools are ready when conventional communications fail.

Another Revolution

Just when you thought that things had finally settled down in amateur radio, the HERMES project just announced the Mercury HF Modem (<https://mercury.hermes.radio/>). The reports are that it provides, "...Reliable file transfers, Keyboard-to-keyboard messaging, Email over HF, Data networking, Emergency communications, and Experimental digital modes" (<https://qrzonline.com/mercury-a-new-open-source-hf-modem-set-to-transform-digital-amateur-radio-communications/>).

Didn't we just do this with WinLink, FT8, and all of those other "revelations in ham radio"? And, do we really need it? What we have is working just fine.

All through the 2000's, it's been nothing but new digital modes one after another. D-Star, DMR, System Fusion, then FT8 -- now FT4 and even FT2! Before that, it was MURS, FRS, GMRS, even repeaters and the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands. Whatever happened to the good ole days of crystal receivers and spark transmitters. If we aren't careful, we will end up with so many modes and methods of using amateur radio that nobody will be able to keep up with all of it.

Of course, maybe that's the point. Just maybe each of us can focus on a part of the hobby and learn to do it well. Focus on a part that interests you and not what everyone else is doing. May the gods of ARRL forgive me for saying this, but maybe Field Day isn't your thing.

Now that I think about it, there was a time when a new mode was almost universally hated because it wasn't "real ham radio". That mode has evolved a bit and the hatred has softened. You might even say that Single Side Band has now been accepted to some extent.

Maybe there's hope for Mercury, after all.

-- B. N. Elmer

Loose Wires: Update from Oklahoma for October 2026

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



Hot Springs, AR. Boyhood home of Bill Clinton, location of historic Bathhouse Row, and recently host to *Central States Communications Association 2026 Communications Exercise (COMMEX)*. The town

welcomed 349 participants from 32 states for COMMEX the week of 21-25 September 2026.

Participants included first responders, state, local, federal, and tribal government emergency communicators, volunteer agencies, and commercial integrators and communications vendors. All

were focused on inter-operability: Exercising their capabilities to provide responders with ability to talk to each other regardless of what they bring to an incident.

So, what does that have to do with Amateur Radio? Everything. Radio Amateurs abound at these events. Amateur Radio is integrated into most mobile command centers, transportable communications centers, and emergency management vehicles. Amateur radio is seen as an important asset in the scalable National Incident Management System (NIMS). The official designation for Radio Amateur skills and abilities is Auxiliary Communicator (AUXC). They are part of the Communications Unit (COMU).

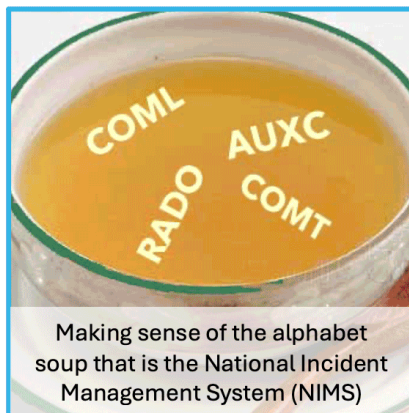
Kansas was well represented. PKARC's own Roxann Kosmicki, KZØIMO, completed enough AUXC Task Book tasks to eligible for AUXC state qualification. She is recognized as a communicator capable of performing

critical missions inside the COMU during larger scale incidences and emergencies. In addition to performing the Amateur Radio tasks, she is also the right hand for a Communications Unit Leader (COML). AUXC's help coordinate ARES, NGOs, CERT, and independent Radio Amateurs providing data, voice, and CW short and long-haul communications.

The next time you see Roxann, congratulate her on taking her skills to a whole new level. She represents Amateur Radio in an arena that links the hobby to the origins of our privileges. The first rule in

FCC Part 97 calls for the "recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." It is the key benefit to the public that helps keep greedy bureaucrats from further liquidating our spectrum.

73 de Rick, NJØP



Making sense of the alphabet soup that is the National Incident Management System (NIMS)



Author at COMMEX 2026 in Hot Springs

Up Coming Events You Should Have on Your Calendar

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

use

03 October	Annual ARES SET Exercise
15 Oct	Vietnam Veterans Wall at the VA
17 Oct	Ensor Museum and Auction, 9-2pm
18 Oct/1:30pm	Tower maintenance day
18/19 Oct	Illinois QSO Party
11 Nov	Veterans Day Parade
4 Dec	Annual PKARC Christmas Dinner, more to follow

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](#)

Photos

Please visit <https://pkarc.groups.io/g/main/album?id=312250> for recent submissions.