

**Nixa Amateur
Radio Club,
Inc.**

Open Mic!

Volume 1; Issue 4

December 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

145.270 WX Station	2
Local Net Sched	2
FDMDV	1 & 2
Technical Update	3
Treasurer Report	3
Member Spotlight	3
Club Information	4

November Meeting Wrap-Up

This month we had our annual Thanksgiving feast at the place where it all began, the Pizza Hut at US 160 and RT CC in Nixa. Everyone that attended had a good time eating pizza and talking about ham radio.

With 18 people on hand, we had a pretty decent crowd.

Fred Bell, N0LU, had to decline his Vice-President nomination due to family health reasons. Therefore, James Adkins, KB0NHX, was elected to the position of Vice-President for the next 4 year term.

James Adkins, KB0NHX, announced several donations received this month. A Sinclair 4-cavity bandpass filter, valued at \$1,700, was donated to the club by a ham operator in the Kansas City area. Also

donated was a brand new 4-cavity TX RX duplexer for the 444.275 repeater. These duplexers will allow us to add an amplifier and extend the range of the 444.275 repeater. All totaled, equipment donations this month neared \$3,000.

Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, announced he had worked out a deal to provide us wireless internet at the 145.270 repeater site without a recurring monthly charge. This will allow us to free up link radios, antennas, and polyphasers for use on the 53.270 remote receiver project. The club will purchase the equipment and we will do the install. This will move the EchoLink node to the repeater site, giving us a more stable power source for the equipment and further shorten delays and improve audio quality.

We are looking forward to experimenting with this aspect of amateur radio.

Lastly, we reminded everyone that the December meeting will be our normal Christmas social meeting. This year, however, it will be held at the residence of Dave Beckler, N0SAP. The meeting will be held on Saturday, December 27th, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Everyone that attends is asked to bring their favorite main dish and a side or desert. The club will be providing the drinks for the event. Everyone is encouraged to bring their spouse and children to the event and enjoy the good food and seeing Dave's new station and recently remodeled home.

There will be NO VE testing provided at the December meeting, but it will begin again at the January meeting at the fire department.

73's

Special points of interest:

- November meeting wrapup
- Club ventures into wireless Internet at 145.270 site
- Local Nets of Interest
- Member Spotlight - Jerry Johnson, KEOKI
- Treasurer's Report
- Club Contact Information

What is FDMDV and who's using it?

FDMDV is a new digital mode for HF and VHF SSB communications. It stands for Frequency Division Multiplex Digital Voice. It uses an FDM modem with 15 carriers and no forward error correction. This mode basically takes all the "static" and "interference" out of HF communications

Anyone wishing to try this mode will need a PC, an HF radio, and the Window's compatible software. On-air tests have shown that decoding voice is possible at a signal-to-noise ration of 3 dB!

The one "gotcha" is that your

PC either needs two sound cards to use this mode, or you need a USB headset and one sound card. A good Plantronics USB headset can be purchased from any of the local retailers, such as Wal-Mart, Best Buy, etc.

Area Nets of Interest

Daily Nets:

- 146.835 - 7:00 a.m. Little Switzerland ARC Net
- 3.963 LSB 5:45 p.m. Missouri Phone Traffic Net
- 146.625 - 7:00 p.m. Douglas County Check-in Net (110.9 Hz)
- 3.585 CW 7:00 p.m. Missouri Section CW Net
- 9:45 p.m.
- 3.803 LSB 10:00 p.m. Roundtable SSB Net

Mondays:

- 146.970 - 7:30 p.m. Lawrence County ARES Net
- 53.270 - 8:00 p.m. The 6-Meter Net (162.2 Hz - 51.570 input)
- 147.195 + 9:00 p.m. Taney County ARES Net

Tuesdays:

- 145.490 - 7:00 p.m. Sky Warn Check-in Net (136.5 Hz)
- 145.230 - 7:30 p.m. Christian County ARES Net (162.2 Hz)
- 146.805 - 7:30 p.m. Newton County ARES Net (127.3 Hz)
- 145.270 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Belt Christian Fellowship Net (162.2 Hz) *

Wednesdays:

- 146.820 - 7:30 p.m. EARS Club Check-In Net
- 145.210 - 8:00 p.m. Barry County ARES Net (162.2 Hz)
- 147.150 + 9:00 p.m. Combined KARC - TLARC Net

Thursdays:

- 147.225 + 7:00 p.m. Greene County ARES Net
- 145.270 - 7:30 p.m. Nixa ARC Check-in Net (162.2 Hz)*
- 145.350 - 8:00 p.m. Four-State ARC Net (103.5 Hz)
- 52.525 9:00 p.m. Joplin 6-Meter FM Simplex Net

Fridays:

- 146.910 - 8:00 p.m. SMARC Friday Night Net (100.0 Hz)

Saturdays:

(none at this time)

Sundays:

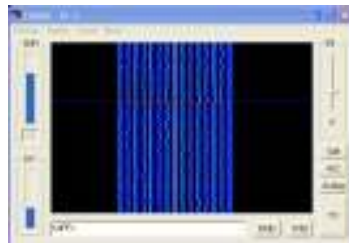
- 147.345 + 9:00 p.m. Stone County ARES Net (162.2 Hz)

* Nets also on 53.270, 224.280, 444.275 and 927.5375 machines

What is FDMDV and who's using it? (Continued from Page 1)

Detailed setup information can be found at http://n1su.com/fdmdv/FDMDV_Docs_Rel_1_4b.pdf.

If you've used WINdrM, you'll find that FDMDV is very similar. You can see a screenshot of the software to the right. The waterfall type display will be familiar to those that have experimented with PSK-31.



Generally, a person should only run 20-25 watts max, and most activity centers around 14.236 MHz. In fact, you can test your setup with two weekly nets, held every Saturday and Sunday on 14.236 USB at 1900 UTC during the summer (3:00 p.m. EDT) or at 2000 UTC (3:00 p.m. EST) during the winter months.

Locally, Jeff Kerr,

KC0VGC, and Dick Higginbotham, K0GL, have experimented with FDMDV. If you would like to download the program, visit <http://n1su.com/fdmdv/>. This is a very neat mode that can be utilized not only on HF SSB, but on VHF / UHF and higher SSB for enthusiasts that prefer to operate on the higher frequencies.

Did you know

The 145.270 repeater is equipped with a Peet Brothers UT-100 weather station, with the unimount sensor array. This weather station is connected to the repeater controller and allows anyone to access weather conditions in Nixa at the repeater site.

The weather station, when prompted, will allow you to get the full weather

report by entering 20000, or get individual reports of the outside temperature, the total amount of rainfall since midnight, the wind direction & speed, the 5 minute high wind speed, the current wind chill temperature, and the high and low temperatures since midnight. The weather station was donated to the club and in-



UT-100 Weather station sensors at 145.270 repeater site

stalled in 2005 at the repeater site. It is available for anyone to use whether you are a club member or not and is intended to be available for the NWS to use to get accurate wind speeds, etc., for the Nixa area during times of severe WX. Visit www.nixahams.net and click on the "Weather Station" link for a complete list of codes.

Technical Committee Update

In November, the Technical Committee didn't have any work to do at the repeater sites.

Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, did install the new iLinkboards ULI that was donated by John Kreymer, N5LKM, for the 145.270 EchoLink node. Audio was again improved, but we are experiencing problems with the EchoLink node computer. It is a very old PC and it has numerous problems, including video card issues. So far, audio reports have been good.

Also, Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, has worked out a deal for us to try a commercial wireless internet provider at the 145.270 without recurring monthly expenses. This will allow us to move the EchoLink node computer to the repeater site and make the node more

robust. Having a more reliable power source will also help make the node more reliable. In addition, it will free up 2 more link radios and antennas for use at 53.270 remote receive sites.

This will reduce delays further and help improve audio quality even better. With this move, we plan on upgrading the node computer to a newer 19" rack mount PC. We hope to obtain and install the wireless Internet at the 145.270 site in December or early January. If all works well, we may install the Internet at other repeater sites.

With this month's donations of new duplexers for the 444.275 and a band-

pass filter for the 224.280, plans are in the works to improve the talkout coverage of the 444.275 and receive selectivity of the 224.280 repeaters, thus increasing repeater range.



iLinkboards ULI interface used for 145.270 EchoLink node

Lastly, Since the backup battery was installed on the controller at Cox South, we have not experienced anymore problems with the controller resetting or losing time.

Nixa ARC Repeaters

6-Meters: (Republic)

53.270 / 51.570 PL 162.2 Hz

2-Meters: (Nixa)

145.270 / 144.670 PL 162.2 Hz

1.25-Meters: (Springfield)

224.280 / 222.680 PL 162.2 Hz

70-Centimeters (Springfield)

444.275 / 449.275 PL 162.2 Hz

33-Centimeters (Republic)

927.5375 / 902.5375 PL 162.2 Hz

November 2008 Treasury Report

Beginning Balance: \$360.14

Credits:

\$1,029.00 Donations

\$ 18.00 Dues

Debits:

\$ 29.04 ULI Shipping & repair

\$ 32.00 Club P.O. Box

\$1,047.00 Total Credits

\$ 61.04 Total Debits

Ending Balance: \$ 1,506.68

Member Spotlight

Jerry Johnson, KE0KI, is the longest licensed ham operator in the club. Jerry's main interests include CW operations on HF and packet.

Jerry has served the ham community as an OO (Official Observer) and been an asset in helping keep the area's airwaves legal.

Jerry also helps each month with the club's

VE testing sessions held at the Nixa Fire Department.

Jerry uses a Yaesu FT-736 for his VHF/UHF operations can be found listening on most any band.

Thank you Jerry & Helen for your continuing support!



Jerry Johnson, KE0KI

We're on Yahoo!

Nixahams@yahoogroups.com

Nixa Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (KC0LUN)
P.O. Box 467
Nixa, MO 65714-0467

Website: <http://www.nixahams.net>
E-mail: kc0lun@nixahams.net
VE Team Contact: testing@nixahams.net
Website contact: webmaster@nixahams.net

NIXA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

*Those saying it can't be done should
stay out of the way of those doing it.*

We're on the Web!
www.nixahams.net

The Nixa Amateur Radio Club, Inc., call KC0LUN, was founded in April 2002.

The club assists in providing communications for many different public service events. We work with Greene and Christian County ARES and the National Weather Service by providing communications for Sky Warn spotting. We also work with Greene County ARES and other organizations in providing communications for the MS-150, and American Diabetes Association fundraiser bike rides. We hold special event stations for local hams to participate in, such as the annual Sucker Days celebration and the annual ARRL Field Day drill for emergency preparedness. We encourage our members to not only participate in our club events, but to also be members of their local ARES and RACE's groups, and the Christian County CERT team.

The club provides 5 repeaters that are open for all hams to use. These repeaters are part of a sophisticated linked system which allows all repeaters and VoIP nodes to be linked together simultaneously for nets or emergency events and announcements. We also provide VoIP modes, such as EchoLink and IRLP for our members to explore. Currently, we are working on a club HF station to be installed at the Nixa Fire Department General HQ Emergency Operations Center.

The club holds "The 6-meter Net" on the 53.270 repeater weekly on Mondays at 8:00 p.m., which covers all radio bands 6-meters and below. We also have a weekly check-in net on the 145.270 repeater on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. The net is simulcast on all 5 Nixa ARC repeaters, IRLP and EchoLink. Feel free to check in on any band! The 145.270 repeater also hosts the "Bible Belt Christian Fellowship Net" held on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m.

Visit www.nixahams.net for more exciting information!

Nixa Amateur Radio Club Elected Officers

President: Chris Cochran, KBØWZC

- Chris has been club president since the club's beginning in 2002. Chris and his wife, Shannon, KCØSQC, have two daughters, Jordan, KCØSQA, and Olivia, and a son, Jacob. Chris currently works in PC Networking. In the past, Chris has managed a Pizza Hut store, where he first became interested in amateur radio. Chris' primary interest in amateur radio is promoting ham radio and continually improving club equipment.
- E-mail: kb0wzc@nixahams.net

Vice-President: James Adkins, KBØNHX

- James started serving the club as Secretary when the club was founded, and then moved into the Vice-President position. James and his wife, Kim, KCØGKP, have two children, Sierra and Kolton. James works as a technical field engineer and repairs two-way radio and repeater equipment daily. In the past, James delivered pizza while attending college. James' primary interests in ham radio include maintaining the club repeaters and promoting amateur radio. He enjoys operating HF through 1200 MHz from his home station.
- E-mail: kb0nhx@nixahams.net

Treasurer: Jeff Morrissey, KBØWVT

- Jeff is a charter member of the Nixa Amateur Radio Club and took over the treasury job almost 2 years ago. Jeff and his wife, Lori, KCØVNR have a daughter, Brooke, KCØYVF, and son, Garrett. Jeff works in management and has a background in computer networking. Before ham radio, Jeff was an Internet guru and ran a BBS from his house. Jeff's primary interests are SkyWarn spotting, being active with Christian County CERT, and other emergency communications support.
- E-mail: kb0wvt@nixahams.net

Secretary: Jeff Kerr, KCØVGC

- Jeff obtained his license in 2005 and began to immediately make an impact with the club and was elected as secretary shortly thereafter. Jeff and his wife Dee have two daughters, Emily, KCØYOO, Stephanie, and a son Brandon. Jeff works in PC Networking and considered computers his hobby before amateur radio. Jeff's primary interests include 6-meters and HF SSB as well as 900 MHz FM.
- E-mail: kc0vgc@nixahams.net