

**Nixa Amateur
Radio Club,
Inc.**

Open Mic!

Volume 1; Issue 2

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September Meeting Wrap-Up

This month's meeting was held at the KY3 tower site in Fordland, MO.

No business was discussed at the meeting, and the whole meeting was spent drooling over the new KSPR digital transmitter and learning about HDTV.

The BBQ event was attended by nearly 40 people, which all found the drive worth the while. While there, we were allowed to climb the steps to the 75' mark on the tower, step into the 1 Megawatt generator and look around, and watch videos of the tower being built, Tom's view from sitting on top of the tower, and video from KDEB 27's tower that fell several years ago.

Tom McKleroy, W9XO, was

on hand to give the tour of the facility and supervise the "mild" ruckus of the event.

For those that like large transmitters, this was the event for you! The doors were opened and the tubes revealed for all to see! We got to see some of the station's test equipment, along with one of their old live, on site, reporting trucks.

Supper was of course the main attraction (for most). With Jeff Morrissey, KB0WVT, behind the grill, we had had some great hamburgers and hot dogs. All the normal sides were there, too, and several of the club members brought their "famous" deserts, such as Strawberry Rice Crispy treats, Jordan's fabulous chocolate chip

cookies, and Vanilla rice crispy treats to name a few.

So, if you didn't make it out this year, we'll plan on doing it again next year. We hope to see you at next month's meeting for the nomination of Vice-President for the next 4-year term.



Nixa ARC Fall Family BBQ at the KY3 Tower Site in Fordland, MO

Nixa brings area's first IRLP Node

In September 2008, the Nixa ARC IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) node, #3995, was brought on line. This node provides much superior audio than EchoLink and is permanently connected to the 224.280 repeater atop Cox South Hospital. It is also linked to the 444.275 repeater

upon request, and is connected during the Hurricane Watch Nets to the VoIP net, which makes for some very interesting listening.

Many think IRLP is a new mode, but it is not. In fact, the codec it uses is older than

EchoLink's, but it is a more robust codec, thus allowing better audio quality.

Operating procedures for an IRLP node vary from standard FM repeater operation. This is even more true if the IRLP node is connected to a reflector.

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

Nixa brings area's first IRLP Node (Continued from Page 1)

tor. When keying up on a reflector, do these three things when you connect. Listen, Listen, Listen. Pause for at least 15 seconds after connecting to a reflector to make sure you do not jump into the middle of a QSO. Before getting started please read the [IRLP Guidelines](#) on the IRLP.NET website. IRLP is not a substitute for HF or real DX, it does serve a worthwhile



purpose and is a useful, robust tool.

Basic IRLP operation is simple. To connect to a node, follow these steps:

- 1) Announce "callsign" connecting to node # "xxxx".
- 2) Key your rig, enter the 4-digit node number via DTMF, then unkey.

- 3) Wait for the connection announcement from the connection node.

To disconnect from a node:

- 1) Announce "This is callsign disconnecting from node # "xxxx"
- 2) Key your rig and enter DTMF "73" then unkey.
- 3) Wait for disconnect announcement.

Club Members to Participate in Local Events

This month, club members are participating in the Republic PTO Autumn Harvest Festival at the Republic Middle School football field on Thursday, October 2nd from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Anyone interested in helping portray amateur radio in a positive light not only to our community but to the kids is invited to come out. We will be running net control from this location for the Thursday night net. Jeff Kerr,

KC0VGC, along with James French, KC0TQD and several members of SMARC have joined together to produce the 2nd annual "Greater Ozarks Amateur Radio Picnic" to be held at the Nature Center in South Springfield. This will be on October 18th, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

See www.nixahams.net for more details as they be-

come available.



KY3 HDTV transmitter on left; KSPR 33 HDTV on the right.

Members also attended the club's fall family BBQ at the KY3 tower site. Besides good food and a tour of the facility, the kids had a great time running around the tower site. Thanks to everyone that donated their time, efforts, food and money to make this event a great one.

Technical Committee Update

This month, the Nixa ARC IRLP node #3995, came on line. It is linked to the 224.280 repeater at all times, but is currently also linked to the 444.275 so everyone can get a taste of how great IRLP audio is. This node can be connected to any of the Nixa ARC repeaters via the 444.275. A special thanks to Jeff Kerr, KCOVGC, for his hard work and dedication getting the node on the air. He not only built the computer and loaded the software, but also put the RF side together at his house. Thanks to Randy Jordan, KC0UKB, for donating the PC "guts" for the node.

This month, the technical committee went to the 145.270 site and adjusted audio levels. With "tinny" audio complaints, and port to port audio too loud, we did some experimenting. Though the CAT RLS-1000B remote link switch doesn't have any instruc-

tions on how to adjust port to port audio, the adjustment was found. Now, the audio from the linking repeater to Echo-Link and vice versa is stabilized. The high-pass filter was also bypassed on the external tone board, thus giving more low-end to the repeater audio. The same port-to-port adjustments were made at the 53.270 site, too. In addition, Warren Reynolds, KD0ELT, assisted us by moving the UHF linking repeater yagi to the 50' mark, at the request of City Utilities. They supplied the coax hangers,



View Southeast from top of Cox Hospital at 444.275 / 224.280 Repeater site

and we supplied the labor. Thanks to Jeremy Tannehill & Alltel for supplying the heliax and connectors.

The 927.5375 is back on the air as well. The repeater is running on its internal controller until the new Arcom RC-210 can be installed. James Adkins, KB0NHX, just finished building the controller and we hope to get it back on the air in October

with the linking radio as well.

If you have any questions or recommendations, e-mail technical@nixahams.net.

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 (Nixa)

927.5375 / 902.5375 PL 162.2 Hz

September 2008 Treasury Report

Beginning Balance: \$1,012.36

Credits:

\$ 72.00 Donations
 \$ 53.17 Member dues
 \$ 75.00 Refund from E-bay
 \$ 25.00 Sale of equipment

\$ 225.17 Total Credits

Ending Balance: \$360.14

Debits:

\$822.53 Repeater related parts
 \$ 34.64 Club trailer title & registration
 \$ 20.22 Picnic supplies

\$877.39 Total Debits

Member Spotlight

Fred Bell, N0LU, was originally licensed back in 1965. Fred is a retired school teacher that moved to Nixa from California. Fred's wonderful wife, Marilyn, also has her ham license, callsign KC0VFF.

Fred's favorite mode is CW, with his primary radio being his Yaesu FT-1000. He enjoys working rare DX and has over 300

countries confirmed, and says there's not many countries he hasn't confirmed.

His first station he set up was in his classroom in Monterey, CA, and it was an old Navy boat anchor WW2 receiver with a Heathkit DX-100. Currently, his favorite ham radio event is Field Day. Thanks for all you do, Fred!



Fred Bell, N0LU, at Field Day

We're on Yahoo!

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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 Support. 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