

**Nixa Amateur
Radio Club,
Inc.**

Open Mic!

Volume 2; Issue 7

July 2009

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June Meeting Wrap-Up

Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, brought the June meeting to order and began with a small amount of business. Chris showed the club members and visitors present the radios we were able to get from Yaesu for the club's HF station. We used the ARRL Foundation grant of \$1,000 to purchase a Yaesu FT-950 for HF-6m SSB and CW, and a Yaesu FT-8900 for 6m, 2m, and 70cm. The club technical committee plans to install the station during July 2009. In addition to the station, Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, contacted Bob Heil, and he will be donating some microphones for the station.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to field day setup and operations. A special thanks to Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, Fred Bell, N0LU, and Dave Beckler, N0SAP, for getting together to iron out a workable plan for Field Day 2009. The plan in-

cluded using the Convoy of Hope truck for CW operations. It's 30' tower would be used as the center support for the Alpha Delta Dipole. The other mast support on the side would be used for a Cushcraft HF Vertical. Original plans were to use the MSHP mobile command bus for SSB operations. However, we are not sure we will have the bus. So, James Adkins, KB0NHX, made arrangements for us to use the MSHP DWI / BAT van for operations. It has a 50' fold over tower on the back. If the bus doesn't show, then we still have a vehicle and tower to use. James also has arranged for the use of two scissor lifts to support the A3S and A4S beams for field day SSB stations. An Alpha Delta DXCC will also be used for HF operations, primarily 40m and 80m.

Setup teams were developed with a team devoted to each

beam, the Convoy of Hope truck, and the MSHP mobile command bus. This allowed each team to focus on their part. (ed. note—this worked out REALLY well!). Jim Adkins, KC0IYI, was responsible for the information table and Al Gallo, W0ERE, for setting up and operating the solar only QRP station.

A GOTA station was determined to be a useful tool, so we decided to use the club's new Yaesu FT-950 with a 40m dipole and Cushcraft vertical for that operation. At the last minute, we decided to use one of the club's SQ-50 6-meter Squalos for 6-meter operation. This would be mounted atop the bus or DWI / BAT van's tower.

After 2 hours of good discussion, the meeting adjourned with a reminder to all to come out and enjoy field day 2009.

73!

Field Day 2009—Preliminary Report

Field Day 2009—would it be cold and rainy like 2008? Not even close! But, we did have a late night surprise . . .

Setup went well. We had 15 people come out to help set up and kick off field day. As it worked out, we had both the MSHP mobile command bus and the MSHP DWI / BAT van. This allowed us to put

the GOTA station in the DWI / BAT van. The teams executed what they discussed the week before at the field day planning meeting and the setup was complete with an hour to spare for lunch. As usual, the friendly CW vs SSB rivalry was re-hashed as friendly "trash talk" was exchanged during setup. The two SSB stations were set up in the MSHP

DPS bus and the CW station in the Convoy of Hope truck. This year, the SSB guys ramped up the attack. Armed with an A4S in addition to the usual A3S for 10-20m beams, one of the Yaesu FT-920's was also equipped with an Inrad 1.8 kHz and 2.1 kHz filter kit to further help selectivity for Field Day. Just as Dave Beckler, N0SAP, and Fred Bell, N0LU, are normally a 2-man

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

Field Day 2009 — Preliminary Report (Continued)

wrecking crew on Field Day, Kent Doucey, N0IRM, and his son Richard, KD0DGY, were a two man wrecking crew on SSB. But, the CW crew had a few tricks up their sleeve, too. Don Mullen, K0HUU, and Art Trampler, K0RO, both avid CW operators, came out to join in the field day fun this year.



Saturday evening, club grillmaster Jeff Morrissey, KB0VVV, came out and grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone, food

provided by the club., with some donations by Wal-Mart and Price Cutter .

All was going well until about 1:25 a.m. Sunday morning when a gust front came through ahead of some thunderstorms. With the A4S beam partially unsecured and the solar station tent blown over, the crew of about 12 people rushed to take down the outdoor lounge tent and secure the rest of the antennas and lower the masts, tower, and pneumatic masts. SSB operations were suspended for over 6 hours until storms cleared and help showed up to get the antennas back up and

operational. The CW guys, however, kept hammering away despite the weather. Luckily, no one was hurt and no equipment was damaged .

By the time Field Day 2009 was over, we had over 60 people come out and approximately 1700 CW / SSB contacts were made during the event! KOLR 10 came out and did a nice story on their 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. newscasts promoting amateur radio and emergency communications. This year, we had 5 operators under 12 years of age come out. How exciting was we try to promote ham radio to the next generation. Next month, we'll have a full report with all the field day numbers thrown out for consumption.

American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure

Fresh on the heels of the Nixa Bike Ride, several club members devoted their Saturday 2 weeks later to provide rock solid communications for the Tour de Cure. The event, coordinated by Ken Baremore, W0KRB, and Patrick Chase, W0CPM, of Greene County ARES, toured lots of territory southeast of Springfield and used the 146.910 repeater for excellent communications. Report was that every rest stop needed

nothing more than a portable radio to hit the repeater! With no injuries and no real hiccups, the race was a success. John Copelin, KC0QNM, and Randy Jordan, KC0UKB, were just a couple of the club members that



Ham operators assist event coordinators in making sure rest stops are supplied with drinks and snacks for the riders

helped with this event. If you have never worked one of the bike rides, make an effort to do so the next time you get a chance. It is a great public service event that just can't be done with cell phones. The events are always good practice for portable emergency operations and

Technical Committee Update

During June, Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, and the Nixa ARC technical committee finished the plans for the install of the club's HF station at the Nixa Fire Department and worked with President Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, to make sure all the parts have been purchased for the install. Installation of the station is slated for July 2009.



Motorola MSR-2000 Backup 145.270 Repeater

James Adkins, KB0NHX, and Thad Huff, KC0AQG, worked diligently on the club's legal limit (1500-Watt) amplifier for the 53.270 repeater. The RF section was ripped out and re-built. A local Lee's Summit company donated, bent and cut a piece of stainless steel needed to mount the vacuum variable capacitors that replaced the broadcast transmitter's tuning and loading components. An inductor was built for the pi-L network and installed with "mock"

vacuum variable capacitors. The amplifier was proven to tune up on 53.270 MHz and a Comet vacuum variable capacitor has been purchased for the tuning. We are still in the process of getting the loading vacuum variable. The input tuning was also modified and completed. All that remains it to re-build the low-pass filter, make tube bias

adjustments, and finish the PTT circuit and the amplifier will be ready to go on the air.

James Adkins, KB0NHX, also tuned up the Motorola MSR-2000 repeater donated by Bob Du Brul, WB0RJR, to act as the club's backup 145.270 repeater. The repeater will be capable of operating with the repeater's CAT controller or with it's own internal controller when complete. Receiver sensitivity is 0.15 uV to open squelch and the amplifier was set to 60-Watts output. Plans to install the backup repeater, along with moving EchoLink to the repeater site and a complete re-build of the 145.270 machine, are for early August.

Watch for more exciting projects to come!

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)

442.275 / 447.275 PL 162.2 Hz

33-Centimeters (Republic)

927.5375 / 902.5375 PL 162.2 Hz

June 2009 Treasury Report

****NO REPORT FOR JUNE 2009****

BUSINESS NOT COVERED AT JUNE MEETING

****FULL REPORT IN AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER****

Member Spotlight

Kent Doucey, N0IRM, originally obtained his ticket in 1986 at the same time his father, Gary Doucey, N0IRN, was licensed. Kent had been inactive for several years until this spring when he again became "radioactive." With his son Richard, KD0HGY, sparking the renewed interest, Kent is working on setting up his station once again. Armed with a Yaesu FT-2000 and a Kenwood TS-711A, work is now ensuing to install a Rohn HDBX-48 tower and several antennas.

Kent enjoys both HF and VHF operation, but probably favors HF a bit. Kent has a background in law enforcement and currently works for Rapid Roberts coordinating fuel delivery for the company, unfortunately he doesn't set the prices :-).

Kent helped out at field day '09 by driving the MSHP bus to Jefferson City after Field Day and operated a great deal at Field Day with his son Richard.



Kent Doucey, N0IRM (Center)

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, KCØSQB, have two daughters, Jordan, KCØSQC, 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 has 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