

**Nixa Amateur  
Radio Club,  
Inc.**

# Open Mic!

**Volume 2; Issue 6**

**June 2009**

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## May Meeting Wrap-Up

Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, called the meeting to attention at 1816 hours. We had 26 members / visitors present for the evening's meeting. The June meeting will be June 20, 2009 at the normal time and location. We had 5 people test today; all 5 passed. One new Tech licensee, two new Generals and 2 new Extras.

We recently received word from the ARRL that the club was awarded a \$1,000 grant for the purchase of radios for our club HF station. Currently, negotiations are in progress to purchase the desired radios, a Yaesu FT-950 and a Yaesu FT-8900. The club also purchased a 1.5 kW amplifier, made by Bext in Italy, for the 53.270 repeater. Several of the club members will be working to get this amplifier ready for operation. It is a broadcast amplifier, so some tuning will be needed.

Thanks to Shawn Baker, KA0RZE, for finding, negotiating and transporting the amplifier to us from Mountain Home, AR. We also received permission from the Missouri Highway Patrol to install remote receive sites for the 53.270 repeater on their tower in Milo (up near Nevada) and Granby (by Joplin). This will greatly improve our range to the west. James Adkins, KB0NHX, reported that the Sucker Days station was well attended. We held a net on 50.125 USB, 53.270, 145.270 and 442.275 and were able to make 38 contacts throughout the day. 12 club members came out and worked the station and greeted the public. It was a great time and a huge public relations success. Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, then gave the treasurer's report for the month. (details later in the newsletter).

Lastly, a discussion about Field Day 2009, to be held July 27 and 28th was undertaken. Currently, we are planning on operating two SSB stations out of the MSHP mobile command center, and one or two CW stations from the Convoy of Hope mobile communications truck. Gary Doucey, N0IRN, also announced we have 99% secured the use of Greene County's new mobile command center for the duration of the event. The CW station will be a Yaesu FT-1000; and SSB will be two Yaesu FT-920's. We will have a solar powered station courtesy of Al Gallo, W0ERE, and a GOTA station to be determined. Likely the GOTA and QRP solar station will share a Cushcraft R7 or R7000 vertical. Plans are also in the works to contact local elected and served officials. Rod Kittleman, K0ADI, will be sending out the press release for the event as well.

## Special points of interest:

- May meeting wrap-up
- Field Day 2009—June 27 and 28th !
- Local Nets of Interest
- Member Spotlight - Kevin Hunter, KA0I
- Treasurer's Report
- Club Contact Information

## Field Day 2009 coming up—June 27 & 28th!

Field Day 2009 is coming up soon, June 27 & 28. This year, we will again be at the Fountain Plaza in Nixa, located near US 160 and Hwy 14. We have again secured the MSHP mobile command center to house the two phone, or SSB, stations which will include two Yaesu FT-920 radios with a Cushcraft A3S and A4S with 40-meter add on kit. Plans are also in

the works for a 40-meter dipole and an 80-meter dipole. The Convoy of Hope will have their emergency response communications vehicle there as well and will house at least one and maybe 2 CW stations. The primary CW station will be a Yaesu FT-1000, and the standby will most likely be a Kenwood TS-2000. A pair of Alpha Delta DXCC's will be used, and

possibly a "super secret" antenna that you won't want to miss! A 100% solar powered QRP station will be provided by Al Gallo, W0ERE, and a GOTA station for those wanting to get their feet wet in HF. These stations will share a Cushcraft R7 or R7000 vertical. We may also host a PSK-31 digital station this year, this is still in the works. Gary Doucey, N0IRN,

# 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 — Coming up June 27 & 28th!

announced a 99% chance that the brand new Greene County mobile command unit will be at Field Day for the duration of the event. It is equipped with Kenwood TS-2000 and two 50-foot towers. Those towers, the 36' tower on the Convoy of Hope, and the 70' pneumatic mast on the MSHP mobile command center will be used in conjunction with a pair of 20' scissor lifts to support our antennas. Works are in the process to have served and elected officials visit the field day site for bonus points. In addition, an ARRL and club information table will be set up.



Rod Kittleman, K0ADI, advised during the bike ride that he will be releasing a press release to all the local media outlets about 2 weeks before the event in hopes of garnering media attention. Dave Beckler, N0SAP, mentioned we should get the WIAW schedule and try to copy their message for additional bonus points.

Thanks to Dean Gaines, KC0SQD, for contacting JT Brown and getting permission to use the lot again for

Field Day.

Please mark these dates on your calendar. We will need your participation to make this a successful event. Next month, at the June 20 meeting, we will pass around a sign up sheet to see who will be available when. This is a 24 consecutive hour event, so we will need everyone to come out and operate. Last year, we finished 3rd in the state in 3A, hope to do better this year, or operate 4A with 2 CW and 2 Phone stations.

If you have any suggestions or have equipment you think we can use, please send an e-mail to [fieldday@nixahams.net](mailto:fieldday@nixahams.net).

73!

## Nixa Bike Ride—Ham Communications Showcased

This year, St. John's asked us to provide communications for their 70, 40, 12 and 6 mile bike rides on May 30th. 18 club members rallied together to provide awesome communications and support for the event. The event coordinators are convinced more than ever they want us with everyone next year. One event coordinator told James Adkins, KB0NHX, that "I told them that after last year if ham radio was not

involved with communications, I wouldn't volunteer to help with the event this year. You guys were professional and did a great job." Jim Adkins, KC0IYI reported that riders would stop at their stop and listen to



James French, KC0TQD, running net control for the 2009 Nixa Bike Ride event for a healthier community

the net control and associated traffic and were impressed with how clear it sounded. Lastly, the ambulance crew from St. Johns were astounded to find out we were working with an HT in Aurora with the repeater in Nixa. They said, "Man, I wish our repeaters worked that well! That's way impressive." Thanks to all that helped out, it was a great cause!

# Technical Committee Update

No work was necessary this month at the Nixa ARC repeater sites. However, lots of planning has been going on. Shawn Baker, KA0RZE, found a 1500-Watt continuous duty Bext T1500 amplifier which we will use for the 53.270 repeater. Planning is under way to turn this FM broadcast transmitter into a first class 6-meter amplifier. This will require re-building the phasing harness for the antenna array at Republic to handle this power.



Bext T1500 1500-W 6-meter repeater amplifier

in-

and break links. We also are planning on making the controller be powered by 100% battery which will take the remaining "buzz" out of the repeater audio at Cox. This will further help our linked repeater system audio be improved. A future PL tone change may be in the works to further take "hum" out of the links.

We also received permission to install remote receiver sites at Granby (by Joplin) and Milo (near Nevada). These are the first 2 of 5 planned remote receive sites so that the repeater will hear as good as it gets out with the new amplifier. We have everything but the power supplies and coax hangers to

stall all 5 sites. Other sites are pending approval.

Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, finished the Dek-TOP miniature computer that will be installed at the Cox South site. This will allow us to monitor the Internet connection there and remotely program the repeater controller and make

James Adkins, KB0NHX, has also been working on the Motorola MSR-2000 that will be the club's backup 145.270 repeater. The crystals have arrived and necessary modifications made before the repeater is placed into service. We need this complete before we can do the massive overhaul at the 145.270 site later this year. We also determined the exact raceway to use at the Fire Department for the HF station and are seeking a "non list price" source.

## 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

## May 2009 Treasury Report

**Beginning Balance: \$1,892.33**

### Credits:

\$1,000.00 ARRL Foundation  
 \$ 225.00 Final 224.280 sale  
 \$ 60.00 ARRL Testing fees  
 \$ 84.00 Membership dues & Renewals for 2009  
 \$ 10.00 Club member donations

### Debits:

\$ 320.00 Club liability insurance—Seabury & Smith  
 \$ 750.00 Purchase Bext T1500 amp for 53.270  
 \$ 9.95 Motorola RICK purchase for 53.270  
 \$ 36.99 Linksys BEFSX41 router for 53.270  
 \$ 60.00 ARRL Exam fees pass-through  
 \$ 60.00 Sucker Day's Booth fee  
 \$ 13.19 Postage & Packing Tape

\$1,379.00 Total Credits

\$1,250.20 Total Debits

**Ending Balance: \$2,021.20**

## Member Spotlight . . . . .

Richard Doucey, KD0HGY, obtained his Technician license on April 8, 2009, and upgraded to General on May 30, 2009. Richard has been very involved with the club since getting his ham license. He came out to Sucker Days and operated and also helped out with the Nixa Bike Ride in May. He recently received a "Good Operator's Report" from an "official observer" for his good operation on 10-meters. Richard's Father, Kent, N0IRM, and his Grandfather, Gary, N0IRN, have been instrumental in

fostering Richard's interest in ham radio. Richard has a Yaesu VX-8R which he uses for 6-meters, 2-meters, 1.25 meters and 70 centimeters. In the coming weeks, he will be enjoy operating a new Yaesu FT-2000 for HF operations.

Thanks, Richard, for all your help, and for helping promote ham radio in the Ozarks. I'm sure he will do a bang-up job at Field Day 2009!



Richard Doucey, KD0HGY

**We're on Yahoo!**

**Nixahams@yahoogroups.com**

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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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.
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