

**Nixa Amateur
Radio Club,
Inc.**

Open Mic!

Volume 2; Issue 3

March 2009

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February Meeting Wrap-Up

February was a busy month for the club. Congratulations to the 5 new members that signed up last month. With the renewals and new members, our roster is now up to 57!

Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, reminded us that we will not have a normal meeting in March. Instead, we will be meeting with the OMAR group and enjoying an antenna building party at the Faith Lutheran Church off N. Glenstone. See the club website for directions and times.

Chris announced that he filled the club's 990-N tax form and advised that we will remain current on the IRS 501(c)3 list for another year. Unfortunately, we won't be getting a tax refund this year.

James Adkins, KB0NHX, finished the LDG RVS-8 voter for the 6-meter repeater this month. It is tested and ready to go.

Chris Cochran submitted a formal request to the Missouri Highway Patrol for permission to install our northwest remote receiver near Nevada and our southwest receiver near Granby. We have all the equipment for the sites except power supplies and coax hangers. James contacted Duracomm and was not able to get a donation, but was able to get a \$75 discount per supply. We will be considering this purchase in the near future.

The HF station is in full swing. Chris Cochran, joined by a host of other club members, accepted the \$1,500 grant from the Nixa Community Foundation. We have received the quote from Penning, which we were able to get a 5% discount. James Adkins has obtained a Comet GP-15 tri-band antenna donated by Comet & WB0W, a SignalLink USB digital mode interface from Tigertronics, and an Iota DLS-55 power supply for the

station with other requests pending. James has also written a grant to the ARRL foundation for the purchase of radios and Chris Cochran is writing a grant to Best Buy for the donation of a PC for the club HF station.

Lastly, James took up the task of selling all of the club's surplus property, which mainly consisted of broken Motorola CDM and Midland radios and other Midland accessories. We also sold the old Motorola Micor that was the 224.280 and the old 444.275 UHF repeater. The sale of the equipment raised about \$2,000 and has allowed us to pay for the new 224.280 repeater, pay off our wireless Internet equipment purchase for the 145.270 site, and still have over \$1,000 for the HF station.

There's much more to mention, but no room. E-mail James Adkins at kb0nhx@nixahams.net for more details.

Special points of interest:

- February meeting wrapup
- Nixa Bike Ride & Sucker Days Special Event
- Local Nets of Interest
- Member Spotlight - Bill McNamee, KB0WHN
- Treasurer's Report
- Club Contact Information

Nixa Bike Ride Communications event May 30

This month, the club was contacted by the coordinators of the Nixa Bike Ride, sponsored every year by St. John's Hospital in Springfield, MO.

In years past, they have had problems with poor cell phone communications for the

event. Last year, they borrowed handheld radios from the ambulance district, but to their surprise, those didn't work either. Thanks to some "positive press" we received, the coordinators heard about ham radio and how we could help.

We have been tasked to support the race by providing rock-solid communications for the event. The race consists of a 10-mile family ride, a 40-mile Intermediate ride, and a 70-mile advanced ride. As we do annually with the Tour de Cure in Republic, we will need all hands on deck for this

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 Bike Ride Event — 2009 (Continued from Page 1)

event. We need 15 people willing to help out with the event. We will need 5 people willing to ride in the "Sag" vehicles for the race. These people need only to have a 2-meter mobile with cigarette lighter plug on the power cord and mag mount antenna. We will also need 7 people to operate rest stops along the way. Rest stops will also need a 2-meter mobile (or HT with spare batteries for the



ones closer in). Rest stops will be in Boaz, Clever, Billings, Aurora, Republic and Battlefield. We will also need someone willing to be the Net Control operator for the event, and someone willing to shadow the event coordinator.

This is an opportunity to show the public just how well we can communicate and to help give back to our community.

James Adkins, KB0NHX, will be working on coming up with antennas and mounts for portable stations for the rest stops. (BTW, lunch is provided by Back Yard Burgers!)

We need your help!!!!!! E-mail James Adkins, KB0NHX, at kb0nhx@nixahams.net to participate or obtain further information. You can also visit <http://www.stjohns.com/nixabikeride/> for information about the event.

Sucker Days Special Event Station . . . We need you May 16th!

The second-annual Nixa ARC "Sucker Days special event station will be Saturday, May 16, 2009. Jim Adkins, KC0IYI; Dave Beckler, N0SAP; and Fred Bell, N0LU are heading up planning and station operation this year.

Dave Beckler, N0SAP, has his HF vertical ready and Jim Adkins, KC0IYI, is working to obtain permission from the "target" business owner to allow us to install the HF Vertical antenna atop

the building so we can actually make some HF contacts this year!

What we need is people willing to come out and work the station and greet



Dean Gaines, KC0SQD, at the helm at the First Annual Sucker Days Special Event station in May 2008

the public. We need two people there at all times. Setup will begin around 6:30 to 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and tear down at the end of the event, about 8:30 p.m. that same day. This was a fun event last year, despite the lack of contacts due to our poor location.

To volunteer for the event, send a quick e-mail to suckerdays@nixahams.net

Technical Committee Update

In February, we continued working out bugs with the Cox South site. We determined the bassy audio on the 224.280 and 442.275 repeaters was due to the audio being double de-emphasized. So, we changed to single de-emphasis and the audio now sounds clean. A trip up to the top of the building will be required to re-set the audio levels properly. Until then, expect audio to be a little "loud." We also plan to re-orient the 900 MHz yagi for clear line of site to the Internet provider's access point in hopes of alleviating the dropouts we have been experiencing. Lastly, we fixed the resets that had been happening on the Cox controller. Research by end users determined some controllers (including ours) had a 300 mA thermal fuse on board instead of the necessary 500 mA. When temperatures reach near 100-degrees, the controller was re-setting. Coincidentally, Alltel's air conditioners

failed in January, causing temperatures to raise to well over 100 degrees! The air conditioners are fixed, and so is our controller. We bypassed the thermal fuse with an AGC glass fuse. No resets



Arcom RC-210 Controller used at Cox Hospital site & 927.5375 Rptr

have occurred since this repair. Programming changes have also been made to ensure no ID's from the 442.275 will make it over the link when all the repeaters are linked. Further programming was done to alleviate problems with the controller not responding on occasion. Lastly, some of the problems we have been having on the Thursday net with traffic being missed has been attributed to time out problems. So,

for the Thursday nets, the time outs have been removed on the 442.275 and 224.280, and the PL tone will be turned off on the 224.280.

In other news, we are now shutting off the time out timer on the 145.270 and the 53.270 repeaters for the Thursday net, and also turning off the PL tones. This coincides with "standard" net protocol used throughout the country. This will also allow those with older 220 and 6-meter radios to check into the net even if they do not have PL boards.

The same modifications made to the Cox South repeater controller will also be made to the 927.5375 MHz repeater in an attempt to have more clear sounding audio and to curb the reset problems we were having at that site as well. We hope to have the repeater back into the linking network soon.

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

February 2009 Treasury Report

Beginning Balance: \$457.90

Credits:

\$ 126.00 Dues

\$ 513.35 Sale of club surplus prop.

\$ 45.00 Reimbursement for Nixa Comm. Foundation Banquet Dinner

\$ 5.00 Donation

\$1,500.00 Nixa Comm Foundation Grant for HF Station

\$2,189.35 Total Credits

Ending Balance: \$2,528.62

Debits:

\$ 16.63 Linksys router for 2m site

\$ 90.00 Nixa Comm. Fndtn dinner

entry fees

\$106.63 Total Debits

Member Spotlight

Bill McNamee, KB0WHN, was originally licensed in April 1996. Bill has been a member of the Nixa ARC since 2005, and has helped in many ways. He pulled two UHF repeaters from the dumpster, literally. One was used for the 444.275 repeater and one was sold to purchase equipment for the repeaters. He also was able to obtain large backup batteries for the club while he was working at Associated Grocers. Annually, Bill helps out with Field Day by operating, setting up and tearing down the station.

Currently, Bill mainly operates mobile with his Yaesu FT-8900. However, he is in the process of changing his homeowners' association covenants to allow him to install outside antennas at his residence.

Since retiring from Associated Grocers, Bill has found (like many retirees) that life gets busier after retirement, it doesn't slow down.

Thanks, Bill!



Bill McNamee, KB0WHN

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

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