

**Nixa Amateur  
Radio Club,  
Inc.**

# Open Mic!

**Volume 3; Issue 4**

**April 2010**

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## March Meeting Wrap-Up

Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, opened the meeting at 6:15 p.m. and announced we had 2 people obtain their license and one upgrade to extra at the VE session. Congratulations to those at the session!

James Adkins, KB0NHX, then talked about the purchase of the 224.280 and 442.275 amplifiers. He explained that we had received a grant to purchase the amplifiers and that they had been purchased used because we were able to buy 200w amplifiers for about \$200 less A PIECE than we could have purchased new 100w amplifiers. On the 220 side, this eliminated the requirement to use a 24 vdc power source.

James then discussed the Nixa Bike Ride scheduled for May 21, 2010, and that volunteers were still needed. We had

several more volunteers sign up for the event. At press time, we still need a volunteer to be co Net Control at the Nixa Clinic, an operator at the Boaz Rest Stop, and 2 SAG riders. Contact James Adkins at kb0nhx@nixahams.net to sign up.

We will not be participating in the Nixa Sucker Days event this year because it falls on the 2nd Saturday in May, which is the club meeting. Besides fighting cold / rainy weather and lack of any measurable benefit, we will not have a booth this year. We will, however, consider it again in up coming years if the date is not a club meeting conflict.

Lastly, Kent Doucey, N0IRM, and James talked about the club's 2-meter FM contest coming up this spring. Everyone has 2m FM, right? So, we

want everyone to be involved. There will be a certificate handed out for the winner of each of 4 categories: portable, rover, base station <25w, and base station >25w. The goal is to contact as many stations as possible with 4 points for each QSO the first time a township is contacted and 2 for each one thereafter. All contacts can be made on 2 FM simplex, except for 146.520, or the 145.270 Nixa repeater. Repeater contacts are only worth 1 point across the board, though. The contest is Saturday, April 24th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and everyone, not just club members, is invited to participate and show off their guns! We want to pack the 2m band with QSO's that afternoon.

The remainder of the meeting was turned over to Art Trampler, K0RO, for a presentation on the logging software ProLog.

### Special points of interest:

- March meeting wrap-up
- This Month below 50 MHz
- Spring NARC 2m contest
- Local Nets of Interest
- Treasurer's Report
- Club Contact Information

## This Month Below 50 MHz . . .

By: Kent Doucey, N0IRM

Well here we are almost through the winter DX season already, although I'm ready for warm weather but Dxing is sure fun during the winter, and the last few weeks have no exception. The sunspot num-

bers have been great for the most part, a lot of days with the solar flux peaking in the 90's. Watch your higher bands, 10, 12, 15, and 17 when these numbers get high for some great DX opportunities there. We did have a few days the first weeks of March with no sunspots and a solar flux in the

70's, but as of right now it appears to be working its way back into the upper 80's. There have been a lot of odd band openings these last couple of weeks. The 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March for several days I heard several Thailand stations with 57 to 59 reports up into 10am and later local time, then on

# 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
- 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)
- 145.270 - 8:00 p.m. Missouri VoIP Net (162.2 Hz)
- 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:

- 3.963 LSB 7:00 p.m. Region D ARES HF Net (SW MO area)
- 145.270 - 7:30 p.m. Nixa ARC Check-in Net (162.2 Hz)\*
- 147.225 + 8:00 p.m. Greene County ARES Net
- 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)

## Sundays:

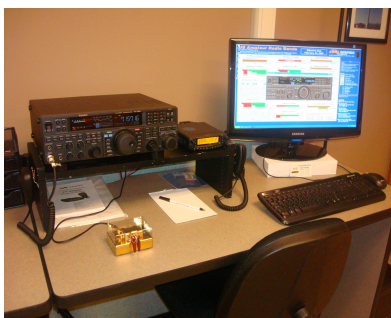
- 146.775 - 8:00 p.m. SWMO D-Star Net (w/ wide area links)
- 147.345 + 9:00 p.m. Stone County ARES Net (162.2 Hz)

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

## This Month Below 50 MHz . . . (continued)

the weekend of March the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> some later afternoon and into the evening Africa openings on 20 meters. These seemed backwards to the normal for me so watch for these band openings when you least expect them.

Hopefully good conditions held out for the CQWW SSB contest at the end of March. Remember, even if you are not a contester these are great opportunities to pick up some new ones for you. I was able to pick up JTICO from Mongolia during the ARRL DX contest which was the last zone I needed for WAZ. I have also found that most of the testers upload their logs to LoTW which is nice for confirmations. Just keep in mind, take time to read up on the contest information when the weekend is coming up so you have the right exchange information when you make your call. I use the WA7BNM contest calendar at



[www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php) a lot to check the current contest. It gives you a quick reference and links to get the information on the contest of your interest.

Some contest to watch for in April are April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> the SP DX contest on SSB and CW, and the EA RTTY contest. On April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> is the JA DX contest on CW. The YU DX contest in April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> on SSB and the SP DX RTTY contest is April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. These are just of the few more interesting contest to me for April. One other contest I want to mention is the MO QSO Party which is the first weekend in April starting at 1800 utc on April 3 and going to 2359 utc on April 5. I hope to try to work this one myself, it would be nice to see a big turn out for the state.

Here are some good ones to watch out for in the coming month that sounds like operators will be active from. 4S7ULG will be working from Sri Lanka on 10 and 20 meters PSK and RTTY. TT8ET will be active from Chad on 20 meters Phone V2 I ZG should be on the first part of the month from Antigua and Barbuda (NA-100) using phone and digital.

I hope everyone enjoys this information and be sure to let me know what your working, on March the 18<sup>th</sup> KD0AA let me know he picked up 6W2SC from one of our club spots, so congratulations Peter! Email me your new ones, band openings you get in on, or any comments on DX at [n0irm@arrl.net](mailto:n0irm@arrl.net). I'm going to take up K0RO's invite to work the Russian DX contest at K5GO and I will let you know how that goes next month. Until next time happy hunting and Good DX.

73 de N0IRM

## Technical Committee Update

In March, 2010, The SL-Racks were purchased from Duracomm so the lota DLS-75 power supplies could be rack mounted at the Cox Hospital site. These power supplies were tested with the new Henry 224.280 and 442.275 amplifiers.

The 224.280 amp is 5-10w input. James Adkins, KB0NHX, began testing with 5.09w drive, which produced 280w output and put a 59a load on the power supply. We will end up driving the amp with 2.5w output for our desired 200w output. Everything held up well with 2 5-minute key downs. The same test was run with the new 442.275 20-30w input drive amp. With that amplifier, we found that 20w drive produced 204w output and drew 54a on the lota supply with no problems. Both of these amplifiers are used. We

e-mailed and called Henry Radio and asked what work had been done on the amplifiers. The 220 amp had a fan re-



Henry 224.280 and 442.275 amplifiers

placed and the 440 amp had the finals replaced due to a failure of the thermister that turns the fans on when a certain temperature is reached. James is working on fabricating 19" rack mount

ears to mount to the Henry amplifier. Once that is complete, all that will be left to do is fabricate the patch cables out of RG-214 coax to allow for maximum energy transfer (we subscribe to the 1/2 electrical wavelength theory to maintain 50-ohm load and high Q between the amplifier and duplexers between the receiver and duplexers)

Planning continues to move forward for the "remodel" of the 145.270 site. A cabinet has been selected and permission to use that cabinet obtained. A rack plan is being developed and parts obtained for the project, slated for late spring. This will allow us to move EchoLink to the site and not have a remote link at KB0WZC's house.

Any questions or comments can be directed to [technical@nixahams.net](mailto: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)

442.275 / 447.275 PL 162.2 Hz

### 33-Centimeters (Republic)

927.5375 / 902.5375 PL 162.2 Hz

## March 2010 Treasury Report

**Beginning Balance: \$370.20**

### Debits

\$241.29 Samlex DC-to-DC converter  
 \$515.00 Henry 200w 224.280 Amp  
 \$500.00 Henry 200w 442.275 Amp  
 \$ 22.34 Go Daddy! For website domain

**\$1278.63—Total debits**

**Ending Balance: \$1013.57**

### Credits

\$ 84.00 Dues  
 \$ 25.00 Donation—N5LKM  
 \$ 5.00 Donation—K0OLD  
 \$ 8.00 Donation—KC0VNT  
 \$500.00 Donation—McKesson on behalf of Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC  
 \$1300.00 Nixa Community Foundation Grant

**\$1922.00—Total Credits**

## Spring NARC VHF QSO Party

The date: Saturday, April 24, 2010

The time: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. local time

The inaugural Nixa ARC VHF QSO Party will take place on the 2-meter ham band on FM only. The goal of the event is to have a great time with all your local ham friends and test out your gear for the upcoming storm season.

Everyone has 2-meters of some sort, and this is the event for you! We will be giving out a certificate for each of 4 categories: High-power (>25w) base station, Low-power (<25w) base stations, Rovers and HT's using the attached antenna. The goal is to contact as many stations as possible from as many different townships as possible. Contacts will be allowed on 2m FM only on any simplex channel. Contacts will be allowed through the 145.270

repeater only, and they are only worth 1 point. EchoLink contacts and repeater linking is not allowed for the contest.

Will you be the person that wins one of the 4 categories for this inaugural, fun event? Any licensed ham is invited to participate, not just club members. So spread the word to all your friends and let's light up the airwaves! Watch your e-mail for further details.



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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.
- E-mail: [kc0vgc@nixahams.net](mailto:kc0vgc@nixahams.net)