

**Nixa Amateur  
Radio Club,  
Inc.**

# Open Mic!

**Volume 3; Issue 2**

**February 2010**

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## January Meeting Wrap-Up

Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, opened the meeting at about 6:27 p.m. Everyone was having a good time talking before the meeting. We had 16 members and one visitor present this month.

Chris announced that we would be receiving the grant from the Nixa Community Foundation on February 18, 2010, at the annual Nixa Community Awards Banquet. RSVP by February 12th to any of the club officers by e-mailing [officials@nixahams.net](mailto:officials@nixahams.net). The cost to attend the banquet is \$15 which includes a nice dinner and a chance to talk to and thank those in the community that continue to support the Nixa ARC through funding.

James Adkins, KB0NHX, updated members on some technical items of interest. The club's 442.275 and 224.280

repeaters and IRLP nodes are back in service with the new SCOM 7330 controller. The controller was installed on 12-31-2009 and all the repeaters brought back on line. So far, the controller has been rock-solid, doing everything it has been programmed to do. If you want to hear information about the 220 repeater, key up and DTMF 280 and you'll hear Randy Jordan, KC0UKB, with an announcement about the repeater. Likewise on the 440 repeater, key up and enter 275.

James also advised that he and Thad Huff, KC0AQG, continue to work on the Bext T-1500 1000-W repeater amplifier for the 53.270 repeater. You can read more details about this and other items of "technical" nature in the Technical committee update elsewhere in this newsletter.

Jeff Morrissey, KB0WVT, gave the treasury report for November & December.

The meeting was then turned over to Ken Porter, ACOML, who gave a stellar presentation on renewable energy to power your ham shack, or your whole house! He discussed wind generators, solar panels, battery banks and inverters and proper battery charging techniques.

Join us for the next meeting on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Nixa Fire Department General HQ at 301 S. Nicholas Rd. A VE Testing session will preclude the meeting. Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, will be doing a demonstration of the basics of Ham Radio Deluxe, a popular logging and rig control software that many operators use for their station. 73,

## Mark your Calendars: Nixa ARC 2010 Calendar of Events

If there's one thing no one can say, it's that we don't have fun with amateur radio!

This year is packed with events. In February, our club meeting is 2-13-10 with Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, speaking about the basics of Ham Radio Deluxe logging and rig control software. Following that up in March, Art Trampler, K0RC, will

be speaking at the club meeting on 3-13-10 about another popular logging software, ProLog. The club meeting in May is on 5-8-10 and will be a Field Day planning meeting discussing our approach to this year's event. Also in May, the club will have the 3rd annual Sucker Days special event station. In addition, we'll be providing communications for the 3rd annual

Nixa Bike Ride on Saturday, May 22nd.

In June, we have the club meeting on Saturday, June 12th and this will be our final Field Day planning meeting with Field Day on Saturday and Sunday June 26 & 27 2010. Plans are to set up Field Day at the Nixa Fountain Plaza again this year with the MSHP mobile command

# 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:

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)

## Saturdays:

### (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

## Nixa ARC 2010 Calendar of Events (continued)

bus, the MSHP DWI BAT truck and the Convoy of Hope communications trailer. In July, the club meeting is Saturday, 7-10-10 and will include a presentation by James Adkins, KBONHX, about EchoLink and Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, about IRLP. The August club meeting will be held on 8-14-10 and will include part 1 of a 5 part series about the club's repeater system and capabilities. In August, we'll be discussing the 145.270 repeater. In September we have the club picnic on 9-11-10 at a site yet to be determined. October will be home to the club



meeting on 10-9-10. We are still looking for a presentation for this meeting. The Tour de Bass is scheduled for Saturday, 10-23-10 and all hands on deck for this event! November will be our annual Thanksgiving get-together at the Nixa Pizza Hut at US 160 and Hwy CC on 11-13-10. We will be voting for Secretary at this meeting. Presentation still needed for this meeting. Lastly, our Christmas party and "informal" meeting will be 12-11-10 at location to be determined.

If you have an idea for a presentation at an upcoming club meeting, please e-mail officials@nixahams.net. We are looking for presenters and ideas for presentations that would interest the club's membership. We are looking for someone to give a presentation along the lines of "Choosing the right HF antenna" and discussing different styles of antennas. We are also looking for a presenter on proper station grounding techniques, HF station setup, and basics of building HF dipoles and beams

## Spring NARC VHF QSO Party

Kent Doucey, N0IRM, has proposed a neat idea, and that is for the club to have our own little local contest. For those who have never contested, or maybe don't have any HF gear, this is an event you'll love!

Whether all you have is an HT, or if you have a mobile station and want to be a rover, or if you want to try to win with your power-house VHF home station, there can be fun for all.

The idea is to run a contest on 2-meters FM, which everyone has at their disposal, to pique interest in contesting and get people pumped up for Field Day 2010. The contest will allow repeater contacts on the 145.270 as well as simplex contacts. You would receive points for each township worked and also get bonus points for working the Nixa ARC Club station. This is not an event for just club members, any licensed ham is invited to participate.

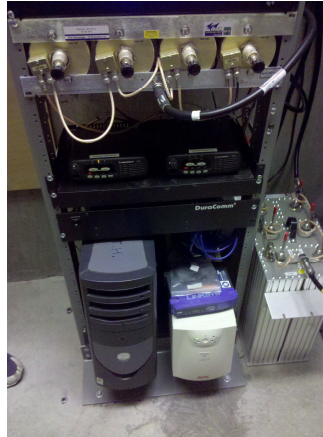
The contest will last for approximately 3 hours one afternoon / evening with the date to be set in April 2010. If well received, we'll make plans for another contest in the fall that will include any VHF band 6-meters and up.

Start prepping now, the fun is about to begin and bragging rights are on the line, along with a nice certificate for the winner. More details to follow . . . .

# Technical Committee Update

In January, the NARC Technical committee continued to battle with IRLP. Programming changes were made because the IRLP node was not decoding the PTT signal from the controller. James Adkins, KB0NHX, ended up re-programming the controller PTT for the IRLP port from active low to active high and the problem was resolved. Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, then set audio levels via the IRLP remote console so audio coming out over the repeater and audio being sent to the Internet was superb.

During December, our 900 MHz Internet radio for IRLP had to be changed out and the provider traded us for a 5.2 GHz radio. That radio, however, only worked for about 2 weeks before failing. So, back at it we went again. James, Jeff, Jeremy Tannehill, KC0UJZ,



442.275 Repeater and IRLP node At Cox South Hospital in Springfield, MO

Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, teamed up to troubleshoot the problem. After an on-site visit and remote diagnostics, the radio was found to be the culprit. A replacement 5.2 GHz Motorola Canopy

Internet radio has been obtained from the provider and Jeremy put the node back in service on January 27, 2010.

Plans continue for moving the 6m repeater receiver to the East TRS tower site in NE Springfield. This move will allow us to install the LDG RVS-8 voter and begin installing other remote receive sites near Nevada, MO and Granby, MO. This separation is required so we can install and use the Bext T-1500 1000-W 53.270 repeater amplifier.

If you have any questions about the club's repeaters, linked systems, or club HF station, e-mail technical@nixahams.net or visit www.nixahams.net and click on the "repeaters" link.

## 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

## January 2010 Treasury Report

Beginning Balance: \$48.13

### Debits

None

\$0.00—Total debits

Ending Balance: \$152.13

### Credits

\$104.00 Dues

\$104.00—Total Credits

## Member Spotlight . . . . .

Shawn Baker, KA0RZE, was first licensed in 1984 as a Novice. Shawn grew up with an interest in electrical and mechanical devices and recalls having an extensive desk fan collection while in pre-school and he would practice taking them apart and re-assembling them. He has always had an interest in electronics, and amateur radio has fit right in. Shawn has worked in the TV and radio industry since he was 19 and began as a bench tech for KSPR 33 in Springfield while attending college at SMSU.

Shawn is self-employed and works as a freelance engineer for TV and radio stations in the area and has been known to check in from some of those remote tower sites on Thursday nights. Any given day, he works on 120kw transmitters to studio audio equipment. Shawn allowed the club to use his bandpass filters for the 442.275 repeater and also helped us by finding the Bext T-1500 amplifier we are working on for the 53.270 repeater. Thanks Shawn for all you do!



Shawn Baker, KA0RZE



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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)