

**Nixa Amateur
Radio Club,
Inc.**

Open Mic!

Volume 3; Issue 1

January 2010

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December Meeting Wrap-Up

Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, opened the Christmas potluck at 6:00 p.m. sharp (we were hungry). We had a pot of chili, taco soup, cheese dip and cornbread and beans. Also had PLENTY of deserts for that sweet after meal snack.

Chris announced that the club had received a grant from the Nixa Community Foundation for the purchase of a Henry C100B10R 100-W amplifier for the 224.280 repeater and a Henry C100D30R 100-W amplifier for the 442.275 Repeater. Al Gallo, W0ERE, thought we should support the community foundation by joining the Nixa Chamber of Commerce. The cost to join is \$100 annually. Al pledged \$25 toward the fee and Jeff Morrissey, KB0WVT, pledged \$25. The club is looking for two more people to step up and donate \$25 more to this so we can join the community foun-

ation for 2010. We had 16 re-new their memberships. For ease of paperwork, we ask you to consider your renewal at the January meeting.

Dave Beckler, N0SAP, wants the club to start an SK plaque for silent key club members & friends. Brian Umbenhower, KOOLD, seconded the idea and pledged \$20 for the purchase of the plaque. Chris Cochran advised the cost of the "Club 100" Plaque for donors of \$100 or more for the 53.270 project cost approximately \$40 when we had it made in 2006. Anyone else that feels this is a worthwhile project is asked to donate the other \$20 toward this project.

The only other business conducted was a vote whether to move club meetings to the second Saturday of the month from the last Saturday of the

month. The vote was unanimous to move the meetings. The next club meeting will be Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Nixa Fire Department General HQ. The 2010 club meeting schedule has been posted to the club website.

Another recommendation was made that we advertise club meetings in local media outlets. James Adkins, KBONHX, has submitted the 2010 meeting dates to the Nixa Xpress and Christian County Headliner newspapers, as well as the Nixa News-Leader and the Springfield News-Leader. The meetings were also added to those respective newspapers' calendars.

At the January meeting, Ken Porter, AC0ML, will be doing a presentation on renewable energy and backup / alternative power for your ham shack . . . or your whole house! 73,

An Expedition in Repairs of a Yaesu VX-170 2-meter portable

Okay, two months in a row. It just isn't fair! How can one person deal with these kinds of failures!

So, I went from a problem with my console style HF tube amplifier (my largest piece of ham gear) to my Yaesu VX-170 2-meter portable, just a tad larger than my Yaesu VX-3R portable!

No one knows how it happened, but the HT was knocked off the table into the floor. When it hit the ground, it broke the brass on / off / channel selector knob shaft in half, it was not fixable. After a call to Yaesu, the \$11.11 switch was ordered and on the way. Three short days later it arrived and was screaming to be installed. I don't like tackling a radio with out ser-

vice manual, or technical supplement as some call them, so I sent Yaesu an e-mail and to my surprise the e-mailed me a PDF copy of the manual instead of making me buy it! (imagine that!) I have to plug Yaesu here, I got great service from both their tech support and parts departments on this project!

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:

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:

145.270- 8:00 p.m. Technology Net (162.2 Hz)
 146.910 - 8:00 p.m. SMARC Friday Night Net (100.0 Hz)

Saturdays:

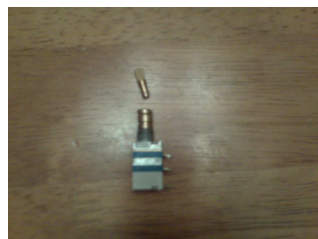
(Sundays:

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

An Expedition in Repairs of a Yaesu VX-170 2-meter portable (continued)

The day finally came when I tore into the radio. I removed the battery and the two screws that held the back case to the circuit board. I then removed the ring nut around the antenna and the channel selector knob—there was no ring nut on that on / off / channel selector knob to my surprise. Unfortunately, I had to remove the circuit board from the front case as well. This proved to be the big chore. The screws were VERY tight. The only screwdriver I had small enough for the screws were jeweler screwdrivers, and I



couldn't get a good enough grip on them to loosen the screws. So, I located a paper towel and used it to aid my grip. Sure enough, that did the trick. With the radio apart, I prepared the soldering iron, wick and solder for action. Using the solder wick, I removed the solder from all 6 pins that held the switch to the circuit board. Luckily, this switch was a through-hole mount and not surface mount, so it was pretty easy to deal with size wise. I just had to make sure I didn't

over heat the board and lift the traces. All went well and on with the new switch. It actually snapped into place, making the soldering easy with my "helping hands" instrument from Radio Shack. After the soldering was complete, I did a final inspection on my solder job to make sure there were no bridges or cold solder joints. Now for the big test—putting the radio back together and testing.

Like a kid in a candy store, I inserted all the screws and ring nuts quickly and with care. When done, I fired up the radio and made a contact on the local machine. All was well! I could now jump on 2-meters again with the good 'ole VX-170 portable.

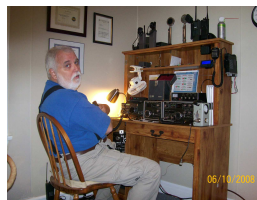
Bob Du Brul, WBORJR-SK

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of a great friend of the Nixa Amateur Radio Club, Bob Du Brul, WBORJR.

Bob passed away unexpectedly in December 2009 while fighting cancer.

Bob was a great supporter of the 53.270, 224.280 and 927.5375 machines

and could always be found on one of them. He had recently jumped back on HF more regularly and was getting the cob webs worked out of his HF station. Bob donated hundreds of dollars to the club over the



WBORJR-SK checks out the station of his brother Alan, K0AWD, in June 2008

years and also donated the backup 145.270 repeater, an MSR-2000, to be placed into service in 2010.

Bob is survived by his wife Linda, NOIMY, brother Alan, K0AWD, his son Sandy, N0JDK, and a host of non-hams within the family. Bob will be greatly missed in the

SW MO ham community.

Technical Committee Update

In December, the Technical Committee was very busy. Kent Doucey, N0IRM, was named to the Technical Committee for 2010. He joins Jeremy Tannehill, KC0UJZ, John Copelin, KC0QNM and James Adkins, KB0NHX.

James and Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, visited the 6-meter site and installed a DL-1000B audio delay board to keep squelch "pops" from occurring and also installed a DR-1000 DVR in the CAT-1000 controller. The repeater now plays a net reminder announcement for the Monday night net and for the Thursday night nets along with club meeting announcements for 2010. In the near future, a repeater info message will play back repeater info when you enter DTMF code 270. Currently, you can enter 725* and then speak a test message and the repeater will play



442.275 and 224.280 Repeaters at Cox South

the message back for you so you know how you're getting into the repeater. Link audio was also adjusted so it is no longer so loud coming from and going to the 6m repeater.

At Cox South, the new SCOM 7330 controller was installed and the 224.280 repeater brought back on line. All new audio cables were run along with a new fan control module to help keep the exciter radios cool. Space was left for the new 100-WV amplifiers for both repeaters, and new patch cables will be made at that time to maximize repeater TX output and RX sensitivity. The IRLP computer connections, router, DekTOP remote control PC and UPS connections were organized as well for a clean PC installs. Work continues to bring the IRLP node #3995 back on line with the new controller.

Differences between it and the old Arcom RC-210 must be accounted for before it will be back on line. We hope to have IRLP back up and linked to reflector 9229 in the near future. IRLP will be on the 442.275 repeater when complete. These repeaters also have club meeting reminder messages programmed.

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

December 2009 Treasury Report

Beginning Balance: \$437.39

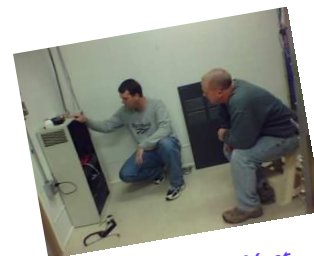
| Debits | | Credits | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| \$ 0.56 | Wal-Mart | \$15.00 | 2010 dues—WB0QIR |
| \$36.00 | USPS mailbox | | |
| \$30.58 | Dayton fans (for rptrs) | | |
| \$20.00 | Shipping of Midland 70-3400 | | |
| \$ 4.83 | Molex Connectors—Cox Rptrs | | |
| \$12.09 | 3.5mm DC jacks & fuse holder (for Cox South rptrs) | | |
| \$175.00 | 10m CDM-1550 | | |
| \$125.20 | 10m CDM-750 | | |
| \$404.26 | Total debits | \$ 15.00 | Total Credits |
| Ending Balance: \$48.13 | | | |

Member Spotlight

James Adkins, KB0NHX, is a charter member and the current Vice-President of the Nixa Amateur Radio Club. He has been licensed since July of 1994 and is married to Kim, KC0GKP. James is employed by the Missouri State Highway Patrol as one of their five Technical Field Engineers and maintains close to 200 patrol car radios and equipment and 34 repeater and microwave tower sites.

James' main interest in amateur radio is the

Installation, upkeep and improvements of the club's repeaters. He enjoys experimenting on bands such as 60m, 6m, 220 MHz, 900 MHz and 1200 MHz. He enjoys working on and repairing radio equipment more than he enjoys operating it at this stage in his ham career. He is responsible for the thousands of dollars of equipment donations the club has received over the years and is continually writing grants to purchase equipment for the club.



James Adkins, KB0NHX, at work at the 927.5375 site



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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