

**Nixa Amateur  
Radio Club,  
Inc.**

# Open Mic!

**Volume 3; Issue 6**

**June 2010**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Club Meeting wrap-up</b> | <b>1</b>         |
| <b>Field Day 2010</b>       | <b>1 &amp; 2</b> |
| <b>This month &lt;50MHz</b> | <b>3</b>         |
| <b>Technical Update</b>     | <b>5</b>         |
| <b>Treasurer Report</b>     | <b>5</b>         |
| <b>Nixa Bike Ride</b>       | <b>5</b>         |
| <b>Club Information</b>     | <b>6</b>         |

## Special points of interest:

- May meeting wrap-up
- Field Day 2010
- Yaesu FT-736R Repair
- Local Nets of Interest
- Below 50 Mhz . . .
- Nixa Bike Ride Wrap-up
- Treasurer's Report
- Club Contact Information

## May Meeting Wrap-Up

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m. by Chris Cochran, KB0WZC. With 28 people present, the room was packed!

Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, began the meeting by giving the treasurer's report for Jeff Morrissey, KB0VVT, who was tied up moving. The report can be viewed later in the newsletter.

David Bowman, WB0QIR, asked if the Nixa ARC Spring QSO Party results had been tabulated. To date, only 3 logs were submitted, so we advised him that he and his wife likely won. Timing and interest were poor, we may consider doing this again at a future date.

James Adkins, KB0NHX, showed a few pictures of the 442.275 / 224.280 / IRLP Node #3995 equipment located atop

Cox Hospital. He and Jeremy Tannehill, KC0UJZ, installed the new 442.275 and 224.280 repeater amps that were purchased with grant money from the Nixa Community Foundation. Kent Doucey, N0IRM, reported being able to hear the UHF repeater full scale from inside his house in Galena, and can work it on 1-Watt on his HT. He lives 39 air miles from the repeater site! These are the kinds of results we wanted. The 224.280 amplifier is working, but we ran into an unexpected de-sense problem which should be fixable with duplexer tuning to optimize the operation. We hope to get to that by the end of May at which time the Cox site will be complete with no more plans for upgrades. It has been a long process getting everything the way we wanted it up there!

James then gave a presentation

on the rules and regulations for Field Day 2010 via a 20-slide power point presentation. Before the meeting, the Field Day committee met at the Field Day site and took measurements and came up with a plan for the event. The plan calls for maximizing the space available, which is 406' north and south and about 100' of grassy area toward US 160 from the parking lot.

We will again be a 3A setup, with one CW, one SSB and one Digital / SSB station. The Convoy of Hope command center will host the CW station, with the MSHP command center hosting the SSB and 6m/2m stations, and the MSHP BAT Van hosting the digital / ssb station. Everyone was advised that we are in need of coax for Field Day. Please mark any items you bring out to FD with your callsign so they can be returned to you afterwards. 73,

## Field Day 2010—DON'T MISS IT!

It'll be here before you know it—Field Day 2010 is coming up June 26 & 27, 2010. The Nixa ARC field day will once again be setting up at the Fountain Plaza shopping center located just north of Hwy 14 on US 160 next to Walgreens. We will begin setting up at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 26

and operations begin at 12:00 p.m. Saturday. We will continue operating until Sunday at 12:00 p.m. and then we'll need lots of help to tear down.

The Convoy of Hope is coming down again this year and the CW station will be set up

there. I believe they'll be using a Yaesu FT-1000 for the station with a Cushcraft R-7000 vertical and a multi-band dipole. The MSHP mobile command bus is once again going to be on site. The Primary HF SSB station, a Yaesu FT-920 with a 1.8 kHz filter kit from Inrad, This station will be

# 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

## Field Day 2010—DON'T MISS IT! (continued)

equipped with a Cushcraft A4S beam with 40-meter add on kit, an 80-m double bazooka and a 160-m double bazooka. In the back of the bus is the 6m and 2m SSB station. The VHF station consists of a Yaesu FT-857 with a PAR OA-50 horizontal omni for 6-meters and a KU4AB SQ-144 horizontal omni for 2-meters. Both antennas will be mounted at the top of the 70' pneumatic mast on the MSHP command bus. The apex of the 80m double bazooka will also be tied off at the top with the apex of the 160m dipole on the same mast tied off at 40'. For the educational bonus points, we will make this antenna Saturday morning on site. So, if you've ever wanted to learn how to make a dipole, be at Field Day Saturday morning. The A4S will be mounted at the top of a scissor or other type of lift.

Our digital station will utilize the club's Yaesu FT-950. The station will be able

to work multiple digital modes, but with the focus on PSK-31 and RTTY. This station will also be able to be used



for SSB contacts when no one is on site that wants to run digital. This station will be in the MSHP "BAT" Van on the north side of the Field Day area. The station will be equipped with a Cushcraft A3S beam for 10m, 15m and 20m mounted on top of a second scissor or other type of lift. The station will also be equipped with a 40-m double bazooka

Our goal for this year is to score more contacts than last year. We don't want a schedule, but we'd like to hear from all the serious operators when they plan on coming out to operate. We figure the best way to out do last year is to have a little more planning on the operators.

We'd like to thank the following people for their help coordinating Field Day 2010:

- James Adkins, KB0NHX
- Dave Beckler, N0SAP
- Kent Doucey, N0IRM
- Arlen Evins, N6DDD
- Dean Gaines, KC0SQD
- Al Gallo, W0ERE
- Randy Jordan, KC0UKB
- Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC
- Mark Schiefelbein, K0ABC
- Art Trampler, K0RO

We invite all hams to participate, whether you're a club member or not. Come out and help us rock the region at Field Day 2010!

# This Month Below 50 MHz . . .

By: **Kent Doucey, N0IRM**

Well another month behind us, and a lot of quiet days behind us on the HF bands too. We saw no sunspots prevail for the biggest part of May up until the later part of month. The solar flux dipped below 70 during this period, this really killed band conditions. Toward the later part of the month solar spot group 1072 has appeared and began to pick things up a bit, bringing the solar flux up to 75 for a brief period. This group is however already beginning to fade as I am writing this article. It seems there have been a few early band openings on 20 meters to Asia and some later evening openings into the Middle East and then things swing to upper Europe and Russia later around 0200 UTC. I actually caught a few early morning JA openings on 40 meters in mid May, and a few 40 meter digital contacts into Europe toward the middle of the month shortly after our sunset. I also noticed short windows on 15 meters in the early part of the month, mostly north south path. Another band to watch is 17 meters, it showed some daytime openings in the month with some European and Middle East contacts reported. I did see a few 10 meter north south path openings during the month, but they seemed to be very short lived. We can only hope for more sunspots and better conditions to show up for June. For anyone interested in a basic article in solar activity and how it relates to DX there is a nice article in the May 2010 CQ magazine on page 26.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> a few of the club DXers got together and were able to have lunch with a good friend of mine, Ken Tanuma, JA8CDG from Tokyo Japan. Ken was on his return trip home from Dayton and wanted to stop for a visit. I met Ken on the air on 20 meters, and he visited me last summer. He is an avid DXer and CW op. Ken brought along another friend from JA this time, Masaaki Takai, JA1LAS, also from Tokyo. "Masa" is another avid welcome,

DXer and CW operator, licensed since 1962 with his call. He also was employed with Kenwood (now retired) working with the amateur radio side. These guys are very interesting to visit with, and have some great stories. They say they favor CW because of the language barrier, CW being a universal language. In talking with them you quickly learn they are very serious about this hobby in JA and start at a young age. They defiantly take the hobby serious and take pride in being disciplined and professional operators. After lunch at the Lone Star Steakhouse we took them for a look at the NARC KC0LUN club station. It's a nice experience to meet these guys in person after working them on the air. A special thanks to our operators who came and made Ken and Masa feel



Pic of the JA's that visited Kent & company in Springfield in May 2010

Peter KD0AA, Art K0RO, Richard KD0HGY and Gary N0IRM. Another thanks to Gary N0IRM for picking up our visitors at there hotel and providing transportation for their visit. It has been nice to see some more spots coming up on the NARC reflector. I did notice some spots from K0LAF, KD0AA, KC0VNT, K0ABC, and N0IRM (hope I didn't miss anybody). Keep up the great work. I have heard a lot of comments from people saying thanks for spotting stations they needed or wanted to work. It's a great way to keep up with band openings. Don't be afraid to spot and let everyone know what on, it may be something someone needs!

Some things to watch for the end of May and June are 3C0C from Annobon Island with two stations on 160 through 10 on SSB, CW, and RTTY. 8Q7AT will be on from Velidhu on 80, 40, and 20 SSB after May 23<sup>rd</sup> until June 4. FH8ND will be on from Mayotte after may 23<sup>rd</sup> on all HF bands. JT9YW from Mongolia will be on from May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, bands unknown. V31XB from Belize will be working on all HF bands from May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>. ZS8M will be on from Prince Edward and Marion Island on 40, 20 and 17 meters SSB and has plans for the digital modes also. BT90HIT special event from China will be active from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup>. E4X

will be working from Palestine on 160 through 10 meters until June 6 on CW, RTTY, and SSB. Don't forget the CQWW WPX CW contest is May 29<sup>th</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>. In closing this month I want to mention an article I found on Good Operating practice. I don't claim to be a perfect operator by any means, and try to listen and learn from my peers and always improve. I'm sure we have all listened to a pileups or heard a QSO sometime recently and heard some of the poor practices floating around, it sure seems like seem to be becoming more frequent since I got my first ticket in 1987. As a young rookie waiting for my license to come in the old snail mail I remember listening to my first HF rig (a Yaesu FT-707) and learning. I was drawn to amateur radio because of the professional operators that could knock out a contact flawlessly. They never missed a beat, never seemed to argue and fight on the air, once a return was made for a Q call you didn't hear 5,6, and 7's calling. You didn't hear US stations returning a call for "Europe only", and never any foul language. Well I could go on but I think you get the point. This article is worth mentioning, you can find it at [on4ww.be/OperatingPracticeEnglish.html](http://on4ww.be/OperatingPracticeEnglish.html). I'm sure not everyone will agree with everything in the article but the one point, among others, I really like was "LISTEN LISTEN LISTEN". Until next month, 73

**Schedule of Events**

- June 12, 2010 @ 4:30 p.m.—Nixa ARC VE Testing Session; 301 S. Nicholas Rd, Nixa, MO 65714
- June 19, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m.—Nixa ARC Monthly club meeting—Presentation on Field Day 2010—301 S. Nicholas Rd, Nixa, MO 65714
- June 26, 2010—Nixa ARC Field Day Event!—Setup at 7:00 a.m.; operations begin at 12:00 p.m.
- June 27, 2010—Nixa ARC Field Day Event Continues—Operations continue until 12:00 p.m. on Sunday with tear down starting at 12:01 p.m. and ending approximately 1:30 p.m.

# June 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |

## Tales of Installing a Yaesu FT-8900 in a Honda Civic

It all started over a nice tall glass of iced tea at McCallisters . . . .

How many times has it happened? Friends cooling down and re-hydrating after the Nixa Bike Ride talking about projects. Randy Jordan, KC0UKB, was sharing his plans for installing his Yaesu FT-8900 in his Honda Civic with James Adkins, KB0NHX (a former Honda Civic owner) and Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC when we decided we just needed to go to Jeff's and "Git er done." We started by mounting the L-bracket for Randy's 6-meter antenna. John Copelin, KC0QNM, had previously installed the dual band 2m/440 antenna and L-bracket and we copied his work. While James drilled the holes, Jeff soldered on the PL-259's. We then tore apart the back seat and molding and ran the remote head

cable and DC power cable to the front of the car. Randy had already installed a nice remote



Picture of antennas installed on the Honda

head mounting stand, so we left that part to him. We continued routing the cable through the firewall to the battery where Jeff carefully terminated the power connection. We then pro-

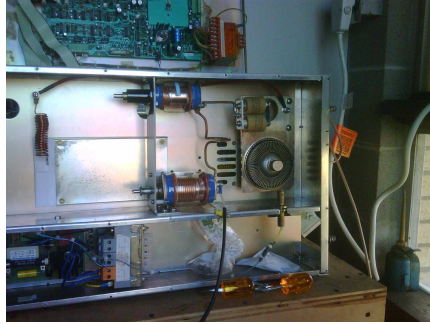
ceeded to test the SWR of the two antennas. As we had hoped, everything checked out. Alas, we had forgotten one small thing—an external speaker! So, we ran a temporary cable to the trunk so Randy could hear the radio until he could run his permanent external speaker wire. Since Randy uses this as his go kit, which he has mounted in a milk crate type carrier, we simply placed the crate in the trunk and left the radio mounted to it. When he's ready to "go" with it, he simply unhooks all the wires, puts the control head back on the radio, and is ready to go. It was a great Saturday afternoon project, and the outcome was just as we had hoped.

## Technical Committee Update

In May 2010, the group installed the new 200-W amplifiers on the 442.275 and 224.280 repeaters. The 442.275 repeater now has 142-W coming out of the duplexers (typically, you see 30% power loss out of your duplexers, so this is normal). On the 224.280, we ended up with 195-W out of the amp for 135-W out of the duplexers. As what has become the norm, we did have some de-sense problems with the 224.280, but that was fixed with re-tuning the duplexers.

James and Thad Huff, KC0AQQ, took advantage of some training to get together during the evenings and work on the Bext T1500 amplifier for the 53.270 repeater. The control board and power supply and lots of ribbon cables were removed from the chassis. The WD7S triode control board was in-

stalled and the B- and step start circuits were designed. SSR's were ordered for the step start along with some hefty 25w resistors for the B-



### Bext T1500 RF Cavity

metering & control. All the control connections were layed out and the 220v AC power harness completely re-done. Several odd type fuses were removed and replaced with a standard

fuse and the 20 gauge 220v ac wiring that powered the blower and the control board was replaced with some nice 12 gauge stranded wire. We hope to be able to fire it up in a couple of weeks and start setting levels on the control board and have the control completed, along with the interface to the proposed IP based remote control unit for the amplifier. The keyline circuit was also designed so that the exciter radio cannot key up when the amplifier is in a fault condition, in warm up, or otherwise not ready for operation.

Internet was obtained at no charge for the 53.270 site and we are in the planning stages for setting up several IP based remote control devices on site. Watch for more details in the near future.

## 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

## Nixa Bike Ride—Done!

Well, another club public service event is in the books. The 2010 Nixa Bike Ride was a huge success! Once again, we showed just how great an asset amateur radio is to the community. This year, we were very busy early on, unlike usual where people get tired near the end. This year was much different. Almost simultaneously, we had 3 injuries, and had to call 2 ambulances. We had just sagged one person in with a suspected broken collar bone when a frantic cell phone call was received at Net Control

a rider had wrecked, and hit her head very hard and needed an ambulance. We promptly called 911 and had one dispatched. Then, a medical problem at the Boaz rest stop. A 67 yoa male with low blood pressure had passed out and needed assistance. Patty, KD0AEL, and Chris, KB0WZC, did a great job at the rest stop! The event had about 550 riders this year, with the bulk of the riders on the 40 mile route. Lunch was once again provided and this year it was

outstanding! We were fed Buckingham's BBQ from Nixa, man was it GREAT!

Thanks to all 25 volunteers that helped out. You did an AWESOME job and really impressed the event coordinators once again. The professional, yet calm demeanor of all the amateurs involved impressed everyone involved. Good job and look forward to seeing you at the Tour de Bass in October!

## May 2010 Treasury Report

**Beginning Balance: \$1,317.38**

| <u>Debits</u>                   | <u>Credits</u>              |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$320.00 ARRL Insurance         |                             |
| <b>\$320.00—Total debits</b>    | <b>\$0.00—Total Credits</b> |
| <b>Ending Balance: \$997.38</b> |                             |



Primary Business Address  
Your Address Line 2  
Your Address Line 3  
Your Address Line 4

Website: <http://www.nixahams.net>  
E-mail: [kc0lun@nixahams.net](mailto:kc0lun@nixahams.net)  
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Website contact: [webmaster@nixahams.net](mailto:webmaster@nixahams.net)

**BUSINESS NAME**

Your business tag line here.

**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)