

**Nixa Amateur  
Radio Club,  
Inc.**

# Open Mic!

**Volume 3; Issue 3**

**March 2010**

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## February Meeting Wrap-Up

Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, opened the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Chris began the meeting by reading the treasurer's report for Jeff Morrissey, KB0WVT, who was out of town. The full treasurer's report is available later in the newsletter.

Chris then announced that there was still time to RSVP for the Nixa Community Foundation banquet when we will receive the grant for \$1300 to purchase the Henry amplifiers for the 224.280 and 442.275 repeater. At the banquet, firemen, police officers and school teachers will be honored. Cost is \$15 and a meal is included. RSVP to Chris before the end of the meeting if you are able to attend.

Brian Umbenhower, K0OLD,

told everyone that he has worked a deal with a fireman friend of his for first aid and CPR classes if anyone is interested. Cost is \$20 per class. E-mail Brian if interested, e-mail Brian at k0old@yahoo.com.

James Adkins, KB0NHX, announced the Nixa Bike Ride is coming up May 21st and that we'd need 22 volunteers for the event.

John Bonnot, WB0LTE, also provided several options for a new club logo. See the Yahoo! Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nixahams> to view them.

Dave Beckler, N0SAP, announced the next W0S Titanic special event station is April 10 & 11 at the Titanic Museum in Branson. E-mail Dave at n0sap@yahoo.com if you want

to participate.

James Adkins also spoke about Sucker Days, which is held on the 2nd Saturday in May, which conflicts with the new club meeting schedule. We may not participate this year.

Alan Du Brul, K0AWD, announced that the amateur radio estate of Bob Du Brul, WB0RJR-SK, would be sold at the Mt. Vernon hamfest on April 3, 2010. There will be lots of equipment there for sale.

The remainder of the meeting was handed over to Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, who gave a presentation on Ham Radio Deluxe and the basics of setting it up to operate digital with your radio. He also touched on the logbook aspect of the software suite, how to operate split with it, and the specs of the PC needed to run this powerful ham radio software suite.

## Nixa Bike Ride—May 21, 2010—Volunteers sought

This year the 3rd annual Nixa Bike Ride will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2010. The annual bike ride is an event focused on getting families out of the house and exercising together.

Rest stops are located at Boaz, Clever, Brown Springs, Aurora, Republic and Battlefield with Net Control located at the Nixa Clinic

in Nixa. Each rest stop will be assigned 2 volunteers to allow for everyone to step away for a few minutes if needed. Last year, all rest stops had power except Boaz, Brown Springs and Clever had AC power. As for the sag / sweep communications, we may end up doing this as we did at the Tour de Bass last fall where we actually rode with another non-

ham volunteer who used their vehicles to shuffle bicyclists around. It would also be ideal to have operators riding with the bicycle repair teams. Last year there were two involved. We are looking for 12 volunteers for rest stops, 2 for net control, 2 for bicycle repair and 4 to 6 to ride with the sweep / sag vehicles.

# 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 Bike Ride—May 21, 2010—Volunteers Sought (continued)

The event has 4 races: a 4-mile family fun ride, a 12-mile beginners ride, a 40-mile intermediate ride and a 70-mile expert route. One change this year is the race will be done by 2:00 p.m. and if riders are not to a certain point on the route by pre-determined times, they will be required to take the shorter route in. For example, 70-mile riders not to point "x" by noon will be forced to take the 40 mile route back. This worked out very well for the Tour de Bass last fall.



If you volunteered last spring, we'd love to have you again. More than likely, you'll be getting an e-mail from James Adkins, KB0NHX, in the days to come seeing if you will be available to help out again.

We would love to have new volunteers also, though. If you have never participated in an event like this, we'll pair you with someone that's experienced. You will find these events a lot of fun and very fulfilling.

The event coordinators are very grateful for our help and say the events are almost impossible to coordinate and complete without the amateur radio communications support we provide. This is another example of how we can give back to our community which gives us so much. Without community support, we would not get grants each year to pay for club projects, would not have a site for the 145.270 repeater, a place to hold our monthly meetings, or a home for our club HF station. The community has helped fund the install of the 53.270 repeater site, paid for our IRLP link & repeater linking capability, assisted in funding for the club HF station, and most recently purchased amps for the 442.275 and 224.280 repeaters. See you there!

## 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 sea-

son. 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.

# Technical Committee Update

In February 2010, the Nixa Amateur Radio Club Technical Committee was faced with a problem at the 145.270 repeater site. Due to loading and equipment changes at the Verizon shelter where we are located, we had to research and come up with a suitable option to power the repeater, which requires not only 13.8 vdc, but also 9.6 vdc @ 1a. We would still be allowed to use the batteries on site, but would have to come up with a DC to DC converter. After much research, we decided on a Samlex SDC-60 converter to take 27vdc to 13.8 vdc. This will provide us with 60a continuous power at 13.8 vdc. James Adkins, KB0NHX, and Bryon Jeffers, K0BSJ, have been discussing and have come up with a solution to convert 13.8 vdc to 9.6 vdc using a regulator and several capacitors. The rating is at 1.5a DC and should be more than enough for our needs at the

repeater site.

With the grant in hand, the club was now armed with the funds to buy two 100w output amps, one for the 224.280



Samlex SDC-60 DC to DC converter for 145.270 repeater site

and one for the 442.275. After doing some searching, James found a 200w Henry amp and Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, found a 200w 220 amp. This is double

the output we had planned for at less of a cost. With the increased current draw, we were required to replace the Duracomm RMSL-5012 power supplies (capable of 43a continuous). A couple of lots of DLS-75 power supplies were obtained for the job and the SL-Rack will be purchased from Duracomm for the project. When complete, both the 442.275 and 224.280 repeaters will be at 200w output. Currently, the 442.275 runs 20w output and the 224.280 runs 9w output. This should go a long ways in helping the repeaters get out. We will likely not run the repeaters at full output, but at an output to allow good HT coverage in and around the Springfield area.

Any questions or comments can be directed to 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

## February 2010 Treasury Report

Beginning Balance: \$152.13

### Debits

None

\$0.00—Total debits

Ending Balance: \$370.20

### Credits

\$204.43 Dues

\$ 13.00 Donation—KQ0Q

\$ 0.64 Dividend

\$218.07—Total Credits

## Net Control op needed!

We are currently looking for someone to volunteer to run the Nixa ARC Thursday night NARC Net one Thursday per month. The net starts at 7:30 p.m. and usually runs to 8:00 to 8:15 p.m. on the 145.270 repeater. You do not need to be experienced to run the net. Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, sends out the announcement list every week via e-mail before the net with a link to the pre-amble on the club website for the NCS to read before the net. If you are interested, send an e-mail to James Adkins

At kb0nhx@nixahams.net.

We would also like to take the time to thank our current net control operators that run the Thursday Night Nixa ARC net: Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, Kent Doucy, N0IRM and Randy Jordan, KC0UKB. Would also like to thank Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, for filling in and for also taking a turn at the 6-meter net on Monday nights at 8:00

p.m. on the 53.270 repeater, input 51.570 and PL 162.2 Hz. He shares NCS duties with Alan Du Brul, K0AWD, and James French, KC0TQD.

Other club members that act as NCS on the club's 145.270 repeater are J.R. Duncan, N0RLP, and Dave Beckler, N0SAP, on the Bible Belt Christian Fellowship Net held every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. We encourage everyone to take a few moments to verify the operation of their equipment and check into the club nets.



Nixa Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (KC0LUN)  
P.O. Box 467  
Nixa, MO 65714-0467

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

## 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)