

**Nixa Amateur
Radio Club,
Inc.**

Open Mic

Volume 3; Issue 10

October 2010

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September Meeting Wrap-Up

This year's club picnic was held at the Nixa City Park, located just behind the Super 8 Motel on US 160. The event, attended by over 30 people, was a huge success and we had a great time. Jeff Morrissey, KB0WVT, grilled the burgers and dogs and several of the wives made some *wonderful* sides & deserts. With the pavilion reserved, the picnic was ready to begin. Special thanks also to Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, who took care of reserving the pavilion for the picnic and for also doing the grocery shopping for the event. We also want to thank Art Trampler, K0RO, who had obtained a \$50 gift card from Price Chopper which allowed us to buy the food for the event. James French, KC0TQD, also helped us out by sending water and pop our

way. Thanks everyone!

Dave Beckler, N0SAP, and Al Gallo, W0ERE, brought out



their QRP stations to the picnic. After throwing one end of their dipole into the tree, they were off and running and made several contacts on both 40m and 20m, mainly on CW.

The kids all went to the playground and had a great time; and after awhile they had their own little game of soccer going on, followed by some "one on one" soccer!

The weather for the event was perfect, and I think we hit a home run with the location. Many discussions were heard taking place from sharing HF antenna installs, to field day (yes, field day 2011!), to getting on 900 MHz FM, to installing mobile radio gear. There were even some funny "back in the day" stories being exchanged, trivia, and recipes circulating the event.

We hope everyone had a great time, and want to thank everyone that came out and we look forward to seeing you at the October meeting when we'll be nominating the next Secretary for the club. 73,

Living the "high life" on 60-meters

Last October, as I prepared for my back surgery, I pondered what I would do with myself for 6 weeks while I was off work and couldn't do any "manual labor" (my wife just loved that!!!). I decided to embark on the world of 60-meters. Unfor-

tunately, my Yaesu FT-920 would not do 60-meters out of the box, so I had to open it up and modify it for 60-meter operations. The modification was a breeze, the hardest part was taking the radio apart and putting it back together!

It seems, though, that most hams are "scared" to try 60-meters. Is it the 50w ERP rule, or trying to figure out what frequency to operate on that scares people off? It could be either, but once you get past the fear of operating on 60-meters,

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

Living the “High Life” on 60-meters (continued)

you'll find it to be a lot of fun. Armed with my freshly modified radio, some Advil (for the back pain!) and my Barker & Williamson BVD 1.8-30 folded dipole, I began looking for 60-meter contacts.

I was surprised to find quite a bit of activity on 60m. And, to boot, they were friendly and happy to welcome a new-comer to the band. I will say most of my operating was done during the day, so I didn't really test night time propagation. However, I was pleased that I could work stations all over the Midwest with no problems with my 50w ERP and folded dipole that wasn't really made to operate on 60m to begin with (that's debatable). I made it a habit to talk to these folks and learn from them some 60m tips. It seems the antenna of choice was the double bazooka antenna, which by nature is known to be a quiet antenna and pretty

broad banded (there are only 5 frequencies on 60-meters, so that's not really a big issue). We were able to carry on QSO's at length without interruption from changing conditions. I really didn't expect that since 80-meters seems to be

CH No.	FREQUENCY
M-601	5.332 MHz
M-602	5.348 MHz
M-603	5.368 MHz
M-604	5.373 MHz
M-605	5.405 MHz

more of a night time band, I figured 60m would be the same. Ground wave is ground wave, though, I suppose. One manufacturer of double bazookas is located in St. Louis, RadioWavz. These antennas are built really well, and have good reviews from another engineer I work with in St. Louis at Troop C.

Myself, Dave, N0XES, and Thad Huff, KC0AQQ, decided to try to work each other several times during the evening. We tried 40m, 60m, and 80m. Every time we tried this, we could work on 60m and not other bands. None of us had stellar setups, either. Thad, in Ashland, MO, was using a homemade dipole not even cut for 60-meters. Dave was also using an “inadequate” antenna. One would think you should be able to work ground wave across the state on 80m, but we couldn't. I think a combination of wavelength and noise floor did the trick. With so few stations on 60m, there was no fighting for a spot. And, what was fun was others would stop by and chat for awhile. It was a great time by all.

I hope you all take the time to get on 60-meters and enjoy the band. You may also want to check out www.60meters.net for more info.

Ten Tec Omni VII Vs. Kenwood TS-830

By: Dave Beckler, N0SAP

When I came back to ham radio a lot of things had changed... A LOT. Solid State Transceivers, repeaters, digital modes, 5 wpm CW, what is all that about? Yes, I'm from the old Golden Days of radio, and tubes radios still rule as far as I am concerned. However, I still have some catching up to do from my thirty year absence. Having to program the newer HF menu driven radios and those dreaded HT's. Who has fingers that small, and there is always some little button to press twice that is not mentioned in the manual.

So I settled on what is now called a vintage boat anchor Kenwood TS-830S. Of course I have the full station now including the TL-922 amplifier. I added the 455 kc I.F. filter, along with the 270 kc narrow CW filter. WOW, the filters really opened up the receiver section of this radio. I have been in love with this radio ever since.

I have come across many radios from buying estate sales, some of the newer fancy radios with popular DSP and roofing filters to name a few. I began to wonder, "How good are these new radios against the older boat anchors like my 830. So the challenge began, testing Icom's 756 Pro, the Pro III, Yaesu FT-920, 1000 MP Mark V Field, even the Kenwood TS-570. Now, the latest test, the Ten-Tec Omni VII.

The tests were performed on receiver sensitivity, signal rejection, and audio quality. Not just what is printed in the book, but actual on air operations, what you can hear. Of course my hearing is not the best, so this would be a good test.

So far all the radios mentioned above had failed to live up to the receiver

section of the Kenwood TS-830. It's just not my opinion, but other hams like Rich Vogt, KB9YZE, Al Gallo, W0ERE, Fred Bell, N0LU, and others have experienced my test. So far none were able to hear any better than the TS-830. It would only be fair to say all the Japanese radios had their good qualities just not in the tests I performed.

Recently I acquired a Ten-Tec Omni VII Model 588AT with the two optional CW filters and put it up for the test. This radio is a favorite among many new and older radio operators, a wish list radio for



Ten Tec Omni VII HF Rig

many, and the only American made radio left on the planet. A service department that actually speaks English and you do not have to press numerous buttons to get to a real person.

I must say the Omni VII did a fine job hanging with the TS-830. The receiver section is great, the rejection was just as good, and the audio is adjustable for the tone quality you desire. I used a new Ten-Tec Regal "Elvis" microphone by Ten-Tec. It was the only radio that could reproduce the audio quality of a tube output transmitter from operators who know my voice. I was impressed!

As a menu driven radio it lives up as advertised, "No Cheat Sheet Required." Even for me, I never had to crack the book to get on the air. I only found a few adjustments in the manual that were helpful. I can not say that about the other radios, I found myself fumbling through the manual trying to decipher the codes on their face while DX slipped away.

It was little things that disappointed me about the Omni VII. As a CW operator, there was no jack in the back to plug my keyer in, only from the front panel. Having the headphones, keyer, and microphone connected at the same time only took away from the appearance of the radio...wires everywhere.

The knobs felt cheap. I know they are not pots, but none the less I found them cheesy to the touch. The filters worked as expected, however you had to turn the knobs over and over again to slowly turn down the rejection, where on the TS-830 simplicity stole the show with quick reaction.

So all in all, the Omni VII is not a bad radio. Outside the test areas I did not find the Omni VII feature rich such as voice board or memories for contesting. I am sure there were other fea-



tures lacking, but was not part of the test, nor did I look for them. The opportunity to work this radio remote without a computer connected was a plus factor. Ten-Tec gets A's across the board for that feature alone.

In closing, these are my opinions. Just like a PC (Personal Computer), a radio should fit your desires for operation and performance. If you have a radio that gives you pleasure in performance and operation, stick with it. If you are looking for your dream radio, make sure you can get a tryout test for thirty days with a full refund. For me, I have not found a radio to top my Kenwood TS-830. I hope you have or will find your dream radio as I did. 73 and 6146's forever. "SAP" N0SAP

This Month Below 50 MHz

By: Kent Doucey, NOIRM

Well you can sure tell fall is here from the feel of the weather. Since last month the temperatures feel a lot different and HF band conditions are just about as different. The first part of the month started out pretty dim. Solar flux averages up until the 17th of September fell and was averaging around 78, but conditions are pointed toward solar activity. Then by the 23rd of the month the solar flux had rose to around an average of 84 with sunspots visible everyday. Now here we are toward the end of September and the flux at the time of this writing is around 83, the A index 8 and still sun spots showing. Maybe these will be good signs of the cycle finally starting to come alive and as the colder months approach we can be hopeful of better and better conditions.

I noticed a lot of good spots on the club reflector this month. I did notice someone new, KD0MME, Dave. Dave spotted a South American station on 20 meters on the 23rd. Congratulations on your license and your HF station Dave, and hope to see some more spots from you. Looks like Mark, K0ABC has had a good month, spotting Franz Josef Land on 30 meter CW, Central Africa on 15 meter phone, Mongolia on 17 meter CW, and Galapagos Islands on 20 meter RTTY. Mark is taking advantage of the conditions, congratulations Mark on the great contacts. KD0AA, Peter has also had a good month, he spotted Cyprus, Kuwait, Algeria, and Balearic Islands all on 20 meter phone. W0DR also passed along some information on Algeria, thanks Dave and glad to see your spot. Thanks to everyone who passed along their information

this month. I had several people comment about the spots at the club meeting and how helpful they are to them.

A couple of the club members decided to take a local, small scale DXpedition the first few days of this month. Tommy, KG0KW and Gary, NOIRM set up camp at



Kenwood TS-480 SAT HF-6m Rig

Hawkers Point on Stockton Lake. They were armed with a

Kenwood TS-480, driving 100 watts to a vertical antenna at close to ground level. NOIRM said that the rain slowed things down a bit but they were able to put quite a few contacts in their log. Most of these were on 20 meter phone, including a couple of fellow club members according to Gary.

Look for these DX stations currently working or coming up. 4K3FF will be on from Azerbaijan until 10/03 using 40 and 20 meter SSB, RTTY, and CW. And Last A7/JY5FX is working from Qatar on 15, 17, and 20 meters phone.

Well with October coming up with we can't leave out the upcoming contests. For you Digital Ops, the PSK Rumble is October 2nd from 0000Z to 2400Z. October 10th from 0000Z to 0400Z is the North American RTTY Sprint. If

you have never tried a sprint they are a lot of fun, fast paced! Some CW contest coming up this month are the Oceania DX CW Contest from 0800Z October 9 to 0800Z October 10th. October 27th from 0000Z to 0200Z is the SKCC Straight Key Sprint. For the Phone operators the 2nd of October at 0800Z until the 3rd of October at 0800Z is the Oceania DX Phone Contest. Then we can't forget to mention the big one, on October 30th at 0000Z until October 31 at 2359Z is the CQ WW SSB. These are just a few of the contest for October and don't even touch the surface. For details of these or to find other contests check out www.arrl.org/contest or www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php.

One last thing I wanted to mention this month is the disbanding of the Netherlands Antilles. This is a pretty big item for us DX chasers since it will be the first "new ones" added to the DXCC list since 2007 and the first deletes since 1998. From what I'm reading it looks like this may create four new DXCC Entities, PJ2 Curacao, PJ4 Bonaire, PJ5/6 St. Eustatius and Saba, and PJ7 St. Martin. It's possible to start seeing these after the break up date of October 10th, so be on the look out!

Well that's it for this month. Contest season is right on top of us so make your final station checks, finish up last minute antennas projects, and update your logging software. As the days get shorter and the temperatures fall maybe we can all find more time to enjoy good HF propagation. Until next month 73 and good DX!

Schedule of Events

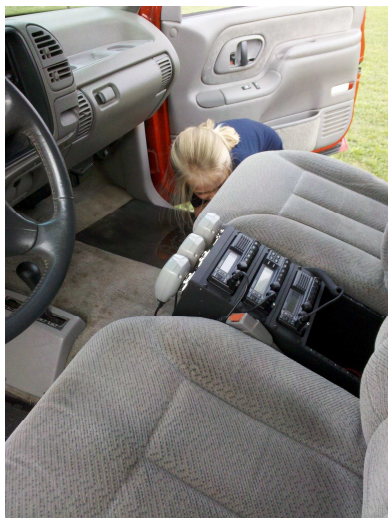
- **October 9, 2010:** Nixa ARC VE Testing Session—4:30-6:00 p.m. Nixa Fire Dept. General HQ
- **October 9, 2010:** Nixa ARC October Club Meeting—6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Nixa Fire Dept. General HQ
- **October 23, 2010:** Tour de Bass Bike Ride—7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

October 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 / 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Mobile Radio Installs gone wild

Over the last few months we've shown some mobile installs in Randy Jordan, KC0UKB and Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC's cars and talked about the use of commercial radios. Kent Doucy, N0IRM, tore his



Brittany Doucey checks out her father, Kent Doucey, N0IRM's, mounting location for his 2m radio

Kenwood D700 and Midland 70-0520CWB 6m rig out of his truck in lieu of installing a new Jotto Desk radio console and all commercial mobiles. As seen in the picture, he has a 110w Kenwood TK-690H for 6-meters, with the radio mounted under the back seat. He also installed a 110w Kenwood TK-790H for 2-meters. You can see his daughter checking out his nifty mounting of the 2m radio under the front passenger seat! The third radio in the console is his Kenwood TK-890, 40w 70cm mobile. He is now looking for a 110w Kenwood TK-690H for 10-meter operations. Who knows where he will mount that radio!

He was torn between how to install his antennas. He is using an Antenex C47 which he found at Kollman Radio in KC for \$40.42. He mounted this antenna on his hood with a trunk-lip mount. For VHF / UHF, he decided to mount a 2m 1/4 wave and a 70cm 5/8 wave antenna in the truck roof using standard NMO hole

mounts. When the time comes to prepare for the capability of having 10m FM in his truck,

In the end, he opted for the "maximum smoke" method of 3 separate antennas with an Antenex C27 for 10-meters, a standard NMO 1/4 wave for 2-meters and an Antenex B4303 5/8 wave UHF antenna. He also opted to use the Comtelco MZL-03 Microloss 900 NMO mounts with the extra low-loss coax cable on UHF. He can routinely work he 442.275 UHF repeater atop Cox South in Springfield from his mobile, on low power, inside his garage from his house near greater metropolitan Galena.

All said and done, Kent has one talking mobile station on 6m, 2m, and 440 with plans to put a strong signal out there on 10m as well.

Technical Committee Update

In September, we made 3 visits to the Cox South repeater site. During the first visit, we installed the new TX RX duplexers to bring the 224.280 repeater back up in service. All went well for about a week before the repeater failed! So, the following weekend myself, Kent Doucy & Jeremy Tannehill made the long trip back up to the roof and did some troubleshooting. The fan that blows air into the PA cavity had quit. We will be replacing all 3 fans on the amp! It got so hot (at least 400 degrees) that it melted the solder that holds the coax to the circuit board, so that will be repaired with some silver solder and tested. We also checked the duplexers while there and found the factory tuning the TX side left little to be desired. The notch was only at -67 dB (should be at least 90 dB) and we were losing 41% of our power in the duplexers. (properly tuned duplexers

should lose about 30% power). So, the duplexers were re-tuned and we are



New TX RX 28-52-02A 224.280 Duplexers at Cox South Hospital Repeater Site

now losing only 29% of our power, and our notch is > 92 dB. The repeater is

currently running again with just the exciter radio, about 9.5w into the duplexers with 6.5w out.

Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, also advised us the 927.5375 repeater was down. James visited the site and found a simple reset of the Motorola MSF-5000 repeater was in order. This brought it back to life with no damage. We believe lightning was to blame for the outage, thankfully no damage was incurred!

With approval to install our local 6-meter receiver on the Greene County East TRS trunked radio system tower near Strafford, we again find ourselves busy with planning for an install there. More details to come about the expansion of the 6-meter repeater system in the near future as this project is starting to take shape.

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

2010 Tour de Bass

Planning continues for the 2010 version of the Tour de Bass. The rest stops are set and the bike routes are being finalized as we are about 3 weeks away from this installment of the Tour de Bass bike ride.

Right now, we are looking for 6 more volunteers..

Positions are still available for the

Strafford and Turner's station rest stop (2 at each location) and we still need on person to ride with a bicycle repair team and another to ride with a SAG driver.

Anyone that wants to help out, e-mail James Adkins at kb0nhx@nixahams.net with your

preferred spot along with your T-shirt size and cell phone number.

Watch the upcoming reflector e-mails for more details as they progress.

September 2010 Treasury Report

Beginning Balance: \$319.35

Debits

Credits

No details available at time of publication

Ending Balance: \$Not Available



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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