

**Nixa Amateur  
Radio Club,  
Inc.**

# Open Mic!

**Volume 3; Issue 9**

**September 2010**

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## August Meeting Wrap-Up

The July meeting was brought under way by Christopher Cochran, at 6:15 p.m. after a good number of local QSOs took place among the 15 people present. Robert Gilkerson, now KD0MOQ, passed his technician test.

Jeff Morrissey, KB0WVT, was out of town and unable to make the meeting, Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, was at his wife's graduation with her advanced degree from Drury, and James Adkins, KB0NHX, was on special assignment working at the Missouri State Fair.

Chris read the August Treasurer's report, which was prepared by Jeff Morrissey before leaving town.

He then updated us on the

club's 224.280 repeater. We received a donation of a brand new set of TX RX duplexers to replace our damaged Sinclair duplexers. The duplexers should be delivered by the end of August and James hopes to have them installed over the Labor day weekend. This will get the 224.280 repeater back up to normal operation. Once it's back up, all the club repeaters will be operating normally once again.

James is also seeking volunteers for this year's Tour de Bass bike ride slated for October 23rd. We participated in this event last year and are looking for 12 more people to volunteer for the event. If you are interested, contact James at [adkins.james@gmail.com](mailto:adkins.james@gmail.com).

The club picnic will be the focus of our September club meeting, which is Saturday,

September 11, 2010 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. After discussion at the meeting, we are going to have the picnic at the Nixa City Park behind the Super 8 Hotel in Nixa. This park has a lot of nice shade trees, and lots of opportunities to string up a nice HF dipole if anyone wants to bring their radio and set up portable for awhile and operate. Watch the club's Yahoo! Reflector for more details on the club picnic.

We also spoke about how the sunspot count had been higher, and Kent Doucey, N0IRM, was given the floor. He found it interesting that even though solar activity has been higher for awhile, it had not really affected propagation yet.

73,

## Tower Installation Notes—Part 2

Last month we talked about different types of towers and digging the foundation for your tower.

When you are planning your tower, another consideration is the windloading. You can either choose

what tower to install due to the antennas you want to put on it or you should determine the windloading of the tower and determine what type of antennas you can install. Be careful, some towers (specifically those with x-bracing) limit the

boom length of your beam / yagi antennas due to twisting. So make sure you take that into consideration as well. Most people are more than willing to buy the best antenna they can buy, but try to skimp on the coax. The coax is one area

# 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

## Tower Installation Notes (continued)

that should not be taken for granted. Sure, you can run RG-58 or RG-8X for HF, and the loss won't be too bad, but if you run something better, like RG-214, which is double-shielded, you have even less loss and you are less likely to cause interference in your house as well.

When you are talking about the higher bands, 6-meters and above, coax becomes even more important. One of my favorites is Extra Flex 9096 that can be purchased from [www.radioworks.com](http://www.radioworks.com). This coax has excellent specifications and I have used it for lengths up to 125' on VHF / UHF. The specs are almost as good as 1/2" heliax, which brings us to another topic. Good coax is expensive. Maybe you don't want to or can't afford to go "all out" on multiple runs of coax. Maybe you should consider going all out on 1 run and using a remote antenna switch on the

tower. Yes, you lose being able to monitor multiple radios / bands simultaneously, but if you're concerned about getting maximum received signal to your rig, this could be a very viable option. I'll



never forget the day myself and Kevin Hunter, KA0I, and others helped Bob Du Brul, WB0RJR-SK, with his tower work. He ran 7/8" heliax for his 900 MHz omni atop his tower, and ran 1/2" heliax for some other antennas! Now that was all out. Of course, he could

work stations quite a ways out on portable. In fact, one night he worked Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, on 900 simplex with Jeff in Williard using an HT in his car. So, don't skimp on the coax.

Lastly, always try to plan ahead if you can. Think about what antennas or what bands of antennas you might want to add in the future as you expand your amateur radio interests. Sure it's easy to throw up a dipole later, but installing an HF beam, or VHF / UHF beam, takes some planning beforehand.

And always be safe if you're climbing your tower. If you don't have the correct belt, etc., buy or borrow it. And if it's borrowed, make sure you do a thorough inspection of the belt if it's leather.

# This Month Below 50 MHz

By: Kent Doucey, N0IRM

It's hard to believe the kids are back in school and summer is almost over. Solar conditions started out looking good at the first part of the month but then slid back down as the month winded up. Sunspot numbers declined drastically and the A index crept up. At the time of this writing things have improved a bit over the last few days, the solar flux is just 72 but the A index has worked back to 8 and a few sunspots are active.

It's been nice to see all the spots on the reflector this month, the activity has been great. Art, KORO started out the month spotting XU7ACY August 1<sup>st</sup>, a great one from Cambodia. A new face for me this month, Don AC0PD let us now about a good stateside 10 meter opening during the 10-10 contest on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Then on the 10<sup>th</sup> Don posted a good 40 meter PSK spot with TG9AHM, thanks for joining in Don and hope to see you some more. Gary, N0IRM also had some nice spots this month, 5N7M from Nigeria and the K7C Navajo code talkers special event station to name a couple. Looks like Mark, K0ABC has had a good month spotting several good contacts including an SV9 on 40 meter RTTY, 4U1ITU on 20 meter CW, EA6 on 20 meter phone, and then the Battleship Missouri station on 20 meter phone. Peter, KD0AA posted a couple of good contacts, Z36T on 20 meter phone to name one. Keep up the good work guys and again thanks for posting these stations for us.

Here are some DX stations of interest to watch out for coming up. 3B9/IZ4AKS will be active from Rodrigues Island from August 28<sup>th</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup> using SSB, CW, and RTTY. BW/KT8X will be working from Taiwan from until September 6<sup>th</sup>. 9X0TL will be on from Rwanda until September 28<sup>th</sup> on 80 through 6 meters SSB, CW and RTTY. It looks like this Rwanda operation has been approved for DXCC credit also. RI1FJ will be QRV from Franz Josef Land this month. XV2LC will be active

from Vietnam using 160 meters.

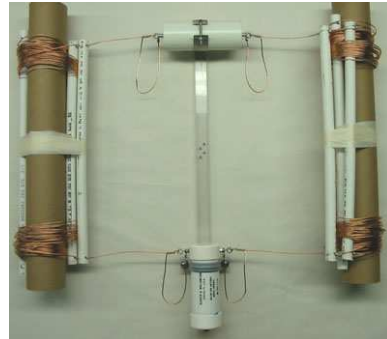
As we get later into the year the contest season will start picking up. Look out for the All Asian DX contest from 0000 Zulu September 4<sup>th</sup> until 2400 Zulu September 5<sup>th</sup>. Exchange will be report plus 2 digit age. One for you digital contesters, the Russian RTTY WW contest from 0000 Zulu until 2400 Zulu on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Exchange is RST plus your CQ zone for non Russian stations. September 11 at 0000 Zulu until 2359 Zulu on September 12<sup>th</sup> will be the WAE DX contest, exchange will be report and serial number. The North American CW Sprint will be 0000 Zulu until 0400 Zulu on September 12<sup>th</sup>, exchange will lengthy, information can be found at [www.ncjweb.com/springrules.php](http://www.ncjweb.com/springrules.php). These are just a few of the contest coming up, more can be found on WA7BNM 8 day contest calendar at [www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php?mode=custom&week](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php?mode=custom&week). This is a great website to keep up with upcoming contests.

Keep in mind as fall approaches so does the winter DX season. Now that the temperatures have dropped down into the more bearable zone its time to get our antennas ready for this season. Make sure to be prepared for the lower bands when they start to come around, 40, 80, and 160 meters. Some of the bigger contests will be coming up also so make you plans for those. Remember you don't have to be a big gun station to work contest and have fun. Know your station and its strong points and decide what contest to work and what category to enter. It's just as much fun sometimes to set a

personal goal and compete against yourself. Maybe just try to beat your own score from the same contest last year. Just remember to go ahead and turn in a log. Its helps the other contesters and helps score and validate the other logs. Besides, you never know

when your score might be better that you think it was.

Well it's been a slow month so not a whole lot to talk about. Just keep in mind as the temperatures cool off and the days get shorter the DX will start to get better.



**Barker & Williamson high-performance folded-dipole HF multi-band antenna**

Hope for good solar conditions

as we head to the end of summer. Until next month, 73 & good DX.

**Schedule of Events**

- **September 11, 2010:** Nixa ARC Fall Picnic—5:00-8:00 p.m. Nixa City Park behind Super 8 Hotel

# September 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  |     |     |

## Commercial 2-way radios . . . On the ham band?

About 4 years ago, I became a believer in using commercial radios on the amateur bands. It is a challenging facet of the hobby that continues to grow. Since amateur radios are not required to be type accepted, it is perfectly legal to use them on the ham bands. It is NOT legal, however, to use your ham rig on the public safety bands. The hardest thought for me to get past was

not being able to program a radio on the fly. Once I observed how much better these radios performed, I was sold. Places where I used to have problems with intermod I no longer had problems with the commercial radio receivers.

Commercial rigs are easily available online as are their programming cables.

Software, however, must be purchased from the manufacturer or you can pay a local two-way shop to program the radio for you. Some shops will even give amateurs a break on programming fees. There are several sites, such as [www.repeater-builder.com](http://www.repeater-builder.com) and [www.batlabs.com](http://www.batlabs.com) which have quite a bit of information on which radios will work on the amateur bands and which won't. The good news is most of the VHF radios will work on 2-meters. UHF commercial radios usually come in a low split from 403-470 and a high split from 450-512. The low splits

will, of course, do the amateur band with no problems and some of the high-split ones can work with re-tuning and software or hardware modifications. It is the use of the newer commercial gear for 10m, 6m and 220 that is more difficult. Then, there is the 900 MHz amateur band from 902-928 MHz which you can only use commercial rigs because there are no amateur rigs available. Good news is there are numerous commercial radios that can be purchased for \$100 to \$150 that will work on the 900 band.

Some radios, like the Kenwood TK-x90 series even have an "operator selectable tones" option which allows the end user to select a PL tone from the front panel of the radio, like amateur rigs!

Next month we'll feature a mobile installation that features all commercial gear and discuss the lineup.



900 MHz Motorola Spectra with DTMF keypad on control head (shown with base station microphone)

## Technical Committee Update

August was a slow month for the technical committee (thankfully, we needed a break!)

The Fire Department has completed re-modeling of the room where the HF station is located, so we'll be able move the HF station equipment back in soon.

The 224.280 repeater continued to be down due to the Sinclair duplexers being damaged by lightening. James Adkins, KB0NHX, contacted Bird Technologies group and they donated a 4-cavity set of duplexers for the 224.280 repeater. We hope to have those installed over the Labor Day weekend and bring the repeater back up to operation.

We continue to wait for the final "OK" for the move of the local receiver on the 53.270 repeater to the East TRS



Dual UHF Yagi mount for the 53.270 Milo remote receiver site

site near MO 125 and Division St. With this move, we also get to move the 927.5375 repeater to this location as well which will dramatically improve coverage for the repeater in and

around the Springfield area. We hope to get final approval for this move as well.

We are also planning a climb at the Milo site for the Northeast receive site for the 53.270. Most of the parts are in hand for this site and we are waiting for a friend of Kent Doucey, NOIRM, to build the dual yagi mount for the UHF links.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail us at [technical@nixahams.net](mailto:technical@nixahams.net).

73,

## 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

## August 2010 Treasury Report

Beginning Balance: \$172.35

| Debits |       | Credits  |   |
|--------|-------|----------|---|
| None   |       | \$66.00  | Dues  |
|        |       | \$75.00  | Sale of club's 70-0520CWB Midland Lowband radio |
|        |       | \$ 6.00  | Move of petty cash to bank                      |
| \$0.00 | Total | \$147.00 | Total   |

Ending Balance: \$319.35

## 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 6 weeks away from this installment of the Tour de Bass bike ride.

So far we have 12 volunteers for the event and are looking for 10-12 more.

Positions are still available for those

wanting to provide communications for a rest stop, or for those wanting to ride with one of the bicycle repair crew, or maybe you want to ride with the sweep and sag drivers and transport the riders when they simply run out of steam we have a few spots left to be filled.

Anyone that wants to help out, e-mail James Adkins at [kb0nhx@nixahams.net](mailto:kb0nhx@nixahams.net) with your

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

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



Primary Business Address  
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Your Address Line 4

Website: <http://www.nixahams.net>  
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**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)