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May Meeting Wrap-Up

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by James Adkins, KB0NHX. VE Testing Liaison Terry Zembsch, KC0SQE, told us we had 8 people at the test session today. It was a good crowd. Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, then gave the treasurer's report in Jeff Morrissey, KB0WVT's, absence. It can be viewed later in the newsletter.

James then announced that the club is now a "Special Service Club" recognized by the ARRL. One of the new benefits we will take advantage of is being able to have a Worked All States and VHF / UHF Century Club card checker in the club! David Bowman, WB0QIR, has been appointed to that position and we are awaiting the final approval from the ARRL.

We then discussed ways for the club to increase attendance

at meetings and check-ins to the net on Thursday evenings. We will be making changes to the net preamble, as well as making it a more conversational style of net. Arlen Evins,



Having fun at the May meeting!

N6DDD, will also be bringing some jewelry and other items that he and his wife make to sell at their shop. We will begin raffling those off at the next club meeting. These are some really neat keychains and necklaces! Look for some more positive changes as well!

Lastly, Kent Doucey, N0IRM, started the Field Day planning. This year, we will have 3 stations set up for phone and data. The new location is the Nixa High Pointe Elementary, located at 900 N. Cheyene Rd on the East side of Nixa. We will have a **huge** open area without all the worries of impatient motorists like the last several years. Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, has obtained for the club 5 laptop computers for logging! We will be using the club's Yaesu FT-950 for one station, along with a Yaesu FT-920, Yaesu FT-450, and a Kenwood TS-480. We will also have at our disposal an Icom IC-7000 and a Kenwood TS-2000. We have 3 10-20m beams and will also have a couple of double bazookas and verticals to use.

Please, come out to Field Day this year. We want you to have a great time operating this year and want to score more points than ever! 73!!!

Ham Radio IS a Service—Being there when it counts

By: Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC

I was in the shack about 10:30pm or so Monday night, May 23rd, in the aftermath of what we now know to be one of the very

worst tornadoes on record. I was monitoring local Skywarn and the NARC 2m repeaters. I had just been speaking with KD0CLP on 145.270 and was

about to call it a night when AI4VA came on. I was able to tell he was coming in via EchoLink. He said he was from the Red Cross and was cur-

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 6:30 p.m. Missouri Section CW Net
- 3.585 CW 9:45 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
- 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)

Ham Radio IS a Service—Being there when it counts (continued)

rently deployed to Louisiana for in a Flood Relief effort. He said they had broken off part of their group and sent them toward Joplin. He explained that was looking for information on how to contact people in Joplin and he was aware that normal means of communication were unavailable. I directed him to link up to the *MISSOURI* EchoLink conference since he had the capability. I was able to easily instruct him on how to find the conference in EchoLink. I told him that conference was being monitored and that at least one of the stations was in the Joplin area. I also said

that the local Joplin repeater being utilized was the 147.210. We cleared the frequency, and after a few minutes I popped into EchoLink and noticed AI4VA was in



fact connected to the *MISSOURI* conference. So, I linked in the 145.270 into the conference and made a call for him. He answered

and I asked him if he had gotten what he needed. He responded "Yes, very much so, and I've already passed the information on to the convoy and they should arrive in the morning". I wished him well and signed-off not really thinking about what just happened. It seemed pretty routine, I was just glad to be useful. Absent the context of the prior day's events it would have been just routine. One never knows when just routinely monitoring the repeater will be of immense value to someone in need.

Field Day 2011—Come Out and Operate!

This year, the Nixa ARC's Field Day location is changing for the first time since 2005. This year, we have teamed up with the Nixa School District and will be using the nice parking lot and open green area at the High Pointe Elementary School, located at 900 N. Cheyenne Rd on the East side of Nixa.

This location will give us plenty of open area to set up antennas for the event. The location is not the only thing to change this year, though. This year, we will again be using the Missouri Highway Patrol mobile command center. However, that will be the only vehicle. The detail will consist of a Yaesu FT-920, a Yaesu FT-950, a Kenwood TS-480 and a Yaesu FT-450. We will operate 3 stations inside the main area of the bus. Two of the stations will be capable of operating Digital or Phone, and the other station will be set up for either CW or Phone.

We will again be securing two scissor lifts for beam antennas, and are working on the possibility of a third beam. With that being said, our antennas, a Cushcraft A3S and a Cushcraft A4S will mainly be used for 10, 15 and 20 meters, with a Par OA-50 omni-angle for 6-meters. We'll put the 6-meter antenna atop the 70' pneumatic mast. Kent Doucey, N0IRM, will also be bringing out a 40-meter vertical to play with, and we'll have 40-meter and 80-meter double-bazooka antennas to use as well.

In the back of the command center, we will have the 6-meter SSB station. This year, solar forecasts are calling for 6-meters and 10-meters both to really be hopping. We hope to be able to take advantage of the higher HF bands this year. Last year, both 6 and 10 meters were quiet. With the solar numbers as they are, this year will prove to be very interesting and fun! Kent Doucey, N0IRM, has ar-



anged for portable toilets from a friend of his that is in the business. He promised they'd be clean, and his best ones :-)

We will need coax for sure this year, so if you have some RG-8 or similar coax we can use, bring it out. Please make sure you mark it in a way you can identify it after Field Day, like with an odd color of electrical tape or something with your callsign written on it. We are also in need of headphones for the detail. We have Y splitters, but need headset. We will again be using the same logging software as the last several years, N3JFP. Check out the software, or download it and play with it, at www.n3jfp.com. It's very nice, easy software to use.

We will be grilling hamburgers & hotdogs Saturday night, thanks to Jim Adkins, KC0IYI, for obtaining a donation from Wal-Mart for food. We are waiting to hear back from Price Cutter and Harter House at this time. Please feel free to bring your favorite deserts and sides. Also, thanks to James French, KC0TQD, for bringing the beverages!

We want to invite everyone out to Field Day this year. We will be holding a talk-in on the 145.270 - repeater, PL 162. 2 Hz. So, when you head down, give us a call and we can talk you in. We want YOU to come out and operate this year, that IS our greatest need. The stage has been set for a great event, now we need the ham operators to show up in droves to operate and have fun.

This year, we have also invited the OMAR group to come out and join us, and we're looking forward to getting to interact and have fun with them, too!

So, come on out to the next club meeting on June 11th and be a part of the final preparations for this awesome Field Day event. Then, mark on your calendar Field Day 2011 on June 25 & 26! We will begin setting up for Field Day at 7:00 a.m. on June 25 and begin operating at 1:00 p.m. on June 25. Tear down will be Sunday after Field Day, with tear down starting about 12:00 p.m. or so.

See you at Field Day 2011!!!!!!

This Month Below 50 MHz

By: Kent Doucey, NOIRM

Well here we are headed in to summer time, it is hard to believe this year is pushing the half way point. The first part of May began with a downward trend for HF conditions. Solar Flux numbers had been well above 100 and now had begun a sharp decline, the sun must have needed a rest after a great run. By May 13th the daily sunspot numbers had declined from 84 to 29 but there was good news the average numbers began to rise. Thankfully after hitting the low toward the middle of the week things began looking up. Sunspot groups began to appear and numbers began to rise. At the end of the month and the time of this writing the Solar Flux was reported as 107 and Daily Sunspot numbers were 122. This was enough to push very good conditions into the 15 meter bands and some spotting on 10 meters also. A lot of late openings have been reported on 20 meters, some contact being made well into the night. Take time to check the upper bands at odd hours. On May 31st at around 0454 UTC I decided I was going to see what I might find on 40 or 80 meters. As I fired everything up I was still tuned to the CW portion of the 15 meter band and noticed a close by signal. Still beaming Africa from the previous afternoon I began to listen and it was a great signal from 5W1SA working from Samoa. After adjusting the antenna I worked him with a great 579 signal. After a little checking around I also found FO/N6JA on Marquesas Island in the Pacific with a much weaker signal. After working the FO within minutes the band was completely closed again. It was a lucky break on a great short opening so it never hurts to check the

upper bands at odd hours, you might get a chance to grab a new one.

Another month with a fair amount of activity on the NARC email reflector regarding HF conditions. Thanks to KDOAA Peter, Mark KOABC, CW KC0VNT, and NOIRN Gary for all the information they passed along this month.



DX Station Wayne Peterson, 3W7W

Contest season has wound down a bit but there is still some activity to keep your operating sharp. I hope everyone was able to catch a few Q's during the CQWW WPX CW contest the last weekend of May. There was a lot of CW activity and a lot of good contacts to be had. June 4th and 5th watch for the SEANET contest, June 11 will be the Asia-Pacific SSB Sprint. Also the weekend of the 11th and 12th will be the GACW WWSA CW DX contest and the DRCG Long Distance RTTY contest. Another great weekend of course will be ARRL Field Day on June 25th and 26th. Don't miss out on FD, we will talk about it later.

With conditions on the rise it's a great time to watch for these stations reported to be active. 3W7W is ac-

tive from Vietnam on 10, 15, and 20 meters, Wayne has had some great signals here on SSB. 9M2/RA9LR is active from West Malaysia using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. P29ZL is active from Papua New Guinea using SSB and PSK31. S79DF will be QRV from Seychelles (IOTA AF-024) mostly using 20 meters but some activity on 17 and 10 meters. Look for a special call from Azerbaijan, 4JA3USA from June 6 to June 10. C95WH will be active from Mozambique also.

One thing I want to mention this month is the ARRL Propagation Bulletin put together by K7RA. This is a great place to gather information on HF conditions and can be received by email. Paul puts a lot of great information into this great weekly bulletin. You can subscribe to this and other ARRL bulletins at arrl.org/bulletins. And last but not least for this month is Field Day. This is a great tradition for Amateur Radio and is a fun time for anyone from an experienced contester to the newly licensed. There is a part of FD for everyone from setup and tear down to operating and everything in between including just visiting with each other. FD is a great time to get your feet wet in the HF world and the contest environment. My first Field Day was as a brand new Novice in 1986 and I have never forgot it. Don't miss out on this great event even if you just come out for a short time. Invite or bring by someone who you might think will get bitten by the bug! Conditions are looking to be great this year so don't miss out on a chance to operate or even try a new mode. I look forward to seeing everyone there! 73 and GD DX until then.

Schedule of Events

- **June 4, 2011:** Nixa Bike Ride—7:00 a.m.—Nixa & surrounding area—Net control on 145.270—PL 162.2 Hz & 442.275, PL 162.2 Hz
- **June 11 2011:** VE Testing session—4:30 p.m.—Nixa Fire Department—301 S. Nicholas Rd, Nixa, MO
- **June 11, 2011:** Nixa ARC Club Meeting—6:00 p.m.—Nixa Fire Department—301 S. Nicholas Rd, Nixa, MO—Field Day 2011 planning!
- **June 18, 2011:** Southwest Amateur Radio Group tailgate swapfest—13144 Keene Ln, Neosho—10:00 a.m. start—Talk-in 146.805— PL 127.3 Hz
- **June 25-26, 2011:** Field Day 2011—High Pointe Elementary—900 N Cheyenne Rd, Nixa—setup @ 7:00 a.m.; talk-in 145.270— PL 162.2 Hz

June 2011

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		

Troubleshooting & Fixing a Peet Brothers UT-100 WX Station

**By: James Adkins,
KB0NHX**

About a month ago, we had a horrible hail storm at the house. We had hail the size of tennis balls and 40 mph winds! Though my roof vents were demolished, and my shingles damaged badly, and screens torn up, my flimsy, plastic anemometer survived! Fast forward 3 weeks, and the roofers have just finished putting a new roof on the house and about a day after they are done, my WX sta-



tion quits reading wind speed. It did appear to still be reading wind direction, however, as well as temperature and rainfall. This WX station is a “wired” station. It uses a single piece of CAT-5 wire from the display unit to the enclosed box where all the connections are made. I traversed the roof to the sensor mount, high atop my chimney. All looked good upon first appearance, except the 4-conductor wire that goes to my anemometer. The wire was blackened right next to the entry point of the sensor,

and the insulation was off two of the wires. I decided to remove the sensor and go to the ground to look at it more closely. As it turns out, the two wires missing insulation are the wind speed wires and one is ground and the other hot, they had shorted together. Since the rest of the anemometer looked good, I simply replaced the wiring with some new wire since the old wire was in pretty bad shape. After looking at the manual to see how to calibrate this device so it knew which way was north, I climbed back onto the roof and re-installed the anemometer. Well, the new wire did the trick! I now have my wind speeds again!

Technical Committee Update

In May, the technical committee tackled several problems. First off, EchoLink was finally put back into service at the 145.270 site. And, it was just in time, as Jeff Kerr, KC0VGC, was able to help Red Cross volunteers that connected to EchoLink hook up with the people they needed to in Joplin.

James Adkins, KB0NHX, and Jeremy Tannehill, KC0UJZ, went to Cox Hospital to check out complaints that the repeaters there were not hearing as well as they used to. We did not find any problems with the receivers, but did find the 224.280 amplifier only putting out 94-Watts after the duplexers. We have dropped about 51-Watts

since we installed the unit after it's last failure. Though no other structural damage was found, it appears the transistors may have been weakened by the violent fail-



ure. We may have to replace the finals in the near future.

Lastly, James continues to work on the 927.5375 repeater and the local receiver for the 53.270 repeater to be located at the East TRS site. The equipment has been racked up, controller programmed, and audio levels set on the controller. Some minor tweaks still need to be made to the programming.

We are also still awaiting to hear back from Verizon to see if we can attach the 29.580 RX antenna for the 29.680 repeater to their railing on one of the city water tanks. Once that is determined, we will then begin working on getting space in their shelter if possible. Otherwise, we will have to place the equipment in the base of the water tower in an outside cabinet.

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 (Springfield)

927.5375 / 902.5375 PL 162.2 Hz

May 2011 Treasury Report

Beginning Balance: \$2,730.57

<u>Debits</u>	<u>Credits</u>
	\$ 150.00 Sale of VHF Duplexers
	\$ 12.00 Dues
\$0.00 Total Debits	\$ 162.00 Total Credits

Ending Balance: \$2,892.57

What Happens When Your Computer Croaks???

By: James Adkins, KB0NHX

Well, the time finally came. My Gateway laptop computer that we've been using since August 2006 quit. I had used this computer since day 1 of the newsletter. Well, as you can see, the newsletter is a few days later than normal, and now you know why!

We decided to make the "big jump" and go with the Mac computer this time. I have always used Microsoft Publisher to do the newsletters in the past, but Office Mac doesn't have Publisher, just Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook! Eventually, I will be using a Mac program called Print Shop for the newsletter, but I'm not ready for that yet. So, what to do?

The new Macs come with a program called "boot camp" that allows you to partition your hard drive, format it for Windows use, and install Windows. So, I purchased and installed Windows 7 on my Windows partition, then installed Microsoft Office 2007 so I could finish the newsletter. Whew! Thank goodness for backups. If you don't back up your PC on a regular basis, please consider doing it. It's worth the hassle.



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

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

NIXA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

*Those saying it can't be done
should get out of our way!*

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: James Adkins, KB0NHX

- 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

Vice-President: Kent Doucey, NØIRM

- Kent was appointed to Vice-President by the board after the resignation of Chris Cochran, KB0WZC, as President in October 2010. Kent and his wife Wendy have 3 children: Richard, KDØHGY, Britney, and Katie. Kent has been a law enforcement dispatcher and deputy sheriff in the past and currently serves on the Stone County 911 board. Kent enjoys HF SSB and digital operations and building HF antennas. He writes the "Below 50 MHz" article for the newsletter and volunteers on the club's technical committee.
- E-mail: n0irm@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