



# S.P.A.R.K.

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

April 2023  
ISSUE No. 15



## NEWSLETTER

Co-Editors  
Connie Koch (WAØQCJ)  
Brooks Baker (KAØJWA)

The latest news, views, and announcements in Sedalia's HAM Radio  
Community

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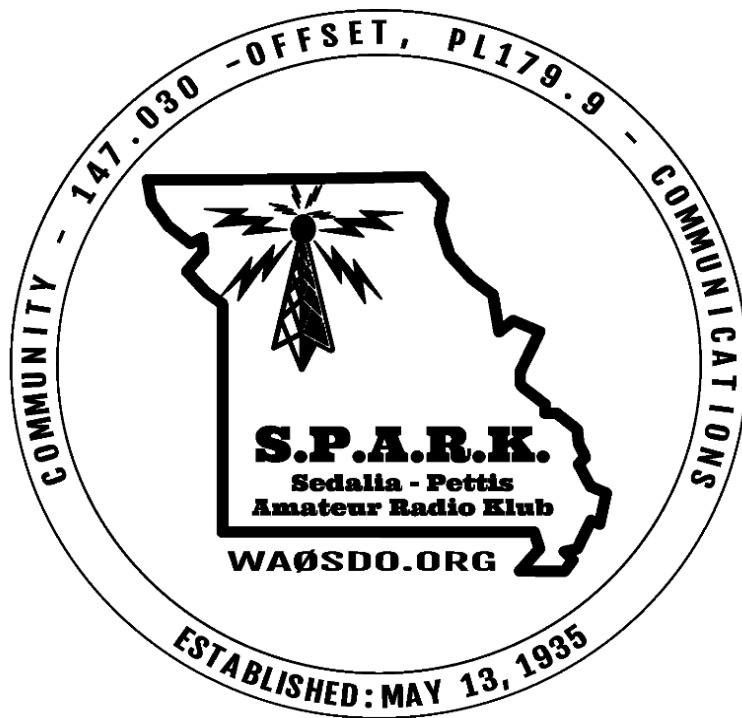
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By Connie Koch  
(WAØQCJ)



### EDITOR'S MOMENT

FANTASTIC NEW PRODUCT  
ON THE MARKET! AVAILABLE  
THROUGH ANY REPUTABLE  
AMATEUR RADIO RETAILER!

DON'T BE WITHOUT NU-HAM  
ANTENNA SPRAY! GUARANTEED  
TO GIVE ALL YOUR QSO'S THAT  
SPECIAL TOUCH OF PUMPKIN  
CHARM! Happy April Fool's Day !!!  
Hi Hi !





## **Renda! (KBØUVW)...What Were You Thinkin'?**

1. Stay off that antenna tower!
2. Quit pickin' fights with (NØOWZ) that you know you can't win!
3. No more rodeo'n for you, little girl!
4. Teach your lil' dog to stay outta' your way!
5. **HEAL UP QUICKLY - WE EXPECT NO LESS OF YOU!**

73's Connie (WAØQCJ)

### **WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Hello SPARK,

Well March is gone, and we finally have Day Light Savings Time enacted, for me this means more time outside and more HAM radio! I hope you all have reviewed your Go Boxes and have them in optimal operating status, since we do live in tornado alley it seems. If you have not reviewed your emergency plan and radio set up, I encourage you to do so, if you end up needing it you will be glad you did.

We have many very cool things going on right now in our club, for instance, Daren KD0OPS and Paul KD0ETL have a Technician Training class that just wrapped up, I am very excited to get the students tested April 1<sup>st</sup>, we are also offering an additional test session April 8<sup>th</sup> to accommodate this class and anyone else that would like to test that day.

After our club meeting April 1<sup>st</sup> we are hosting a Missouri QSO Party event at the Pettis County EMA building. As a Club we will be activating Pettis County to all stations worldwide that would like to make a contact with us, this event is in coordination with the Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society which structures the Missouri QOS Party each year. I am debating what I am most looking forward too, the on-air activity or the great food that you member will be bringing!!! 😊

See you this weekend!

Bret (WØVK)

April – NO WORKSHOP – MISSOURI QSO PARTY AFTER REGULAR HAM MEETING!

May – Pi-Star Hotspot Workshop

June - Vara Software for digital modes (VaraFM, VaraChat, VaraHF, and VaraC).

July - APRS (Reporting System) Workshop Automatic Packet

**Next Meeting – April 1st at 8:30 AM at Pettis County EOC – 1511 N Ohio St.**

### **NETS AND FREQUENCIES**

2 Meter Net – Sunday at 7:30 PM – 147.03 repeater – offset 179.9pl

75 Meter Round Table – Sunday at 9:30 AM – 3950 (3813 other times) operator Paul (KØETL)

2 Meter Net – Tuesday at **7:30 PM** – Rag Chew net operator Don (KFØARQ) 2 Meter repeater 147.03 – offset 179.9pl

6 Meter Net – Tuesday at 8:00 PM – 53.11 repeater – 1.7 offset 127pl

Simplex Net – Wednesday at 8 PM – 147.575 operator Paul (KØETL)

220 Sedalia Rag Chew Net – Wednesday at 8:30 – 224.440 – 107.3pl

Live Streams 147.03 and 224.44 repeaters on broadcastify.com

## HAMFEST CALENDAR 2023

These Are The HamFests Currently Posted – More To Follow  
de – Brooks (KAØJWA)

**04/15/2023 - Ararat Shrine Hambash 2023**

**Location: Kansas City, MO**

**Sponsor: Ararat Shrine Amateur Radio Club**

**Website: <http://hambash.us>**

**07/15/2023 - Hamfest 2023**

**Location: Johnson County Fairgrounds Warrensburg, MO**

**Sponsor: WAARCI**

**08/13/2023 - SCARC Hamfest**

**Location: Elks Lodge- O'Fallon, MO**

**Sponsor - St. Charles Amateur Radio**

**10/14/2023 – SPARKFEST**

**Location – Our Savior Lutheran Church – 3700 W. Broadway – Sedalia, MO**

**Sponsor – SPARK**

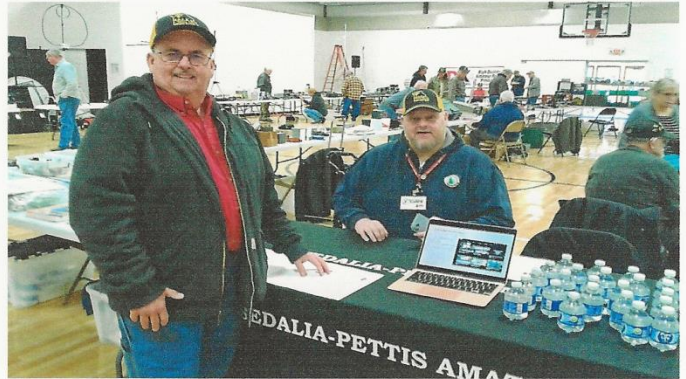
### LARRY LAKE'S (KBØLCO) FLORIDA FIND!

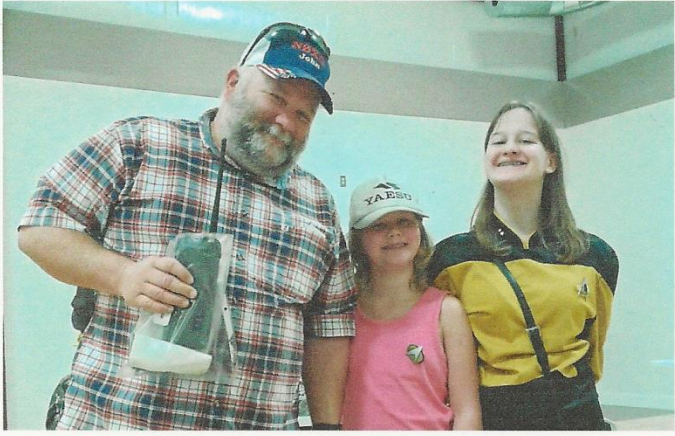
Some of my photos of last eclipse from my deck. Made my own filters to take pictures!



# BOONVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB HAMFEST BOONVILLE, MO 3/11/2023

**WHAT A GREAT REPRESENTATION WITH 16 MEMBERS STRONG!**







# HAMBASH 2023

Sanctioned by ARRL  
Ararat Shrine  
5100 Ararat Drive Kansas City, MO. 64129  
[www.Hambash.us](http://www.Hambash.us)

**SATURDAY, April 15th, 2023**

<p><b>Featuring:</b></p> <p>Flea Market, ARRL Seminar, MESH, QRP Emergency Service Vehicles on display.</p> <p><b>ATM Available</b></p>	<p><b>PRIZES:</b></p> <p>Grand Prize Drawing 12:00 PM</p> <p>Raffles Throughout Morning</p>
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Talk-in 145.13 (Minus Offset, Tone 151.4)

RAFFLE TICKETS: AT DOOR: \$5.00 EACH IN ADVANCE: 3 FOR \$10.00

<p>Set up 6:00 a.m. Close 1:00 p.m. Open to public at 8:00 a.m. FREE Parking Handicapped Accessible Security Officers on Duty</p>	<p>Commercial Exhibitors Traders Area Breakfast and Lunch Seminars all day Testing by W5YI <a href="http://arrl.com/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session">http://arrl.com/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session</a></p>	<p>8-foot Trader's Tables Advance Trader Tables: \$15.00 (At the Door \$20.00) Three tickets per order. Limited Electricity Available Commercial Tables \$25.00</p>
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[www.Hambash.us](http://www.Hambash.us)

Direct email inquiries to [Event@Hambash.us](mailto:Event@Hambash.us)



*Proceeds from this event are for the benefit of Ararat Shrine and its activities. Contributions are not tax-deductible charitable contributions.*



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT!**  
**BRIAN MAY – (N7BFM)**



The one thing I always wanted to be was a father, and a good one. I know I am succeeding in that arena, even from afar. I've travelled all around the globe to include stops in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and even Antarctica! I have slapped a bull moose on the ass from the bed of a moving pickup truck in far northern Canada. I've lived with hippies in Hawai'i. (*ed: correct spelling used by Hawai'ian citizens*) I've been interested in radio since I was a little boy, I even do it professionally. I have a true best friend, we have known each other for 41 years (they broke the mold with that guy)! I can fix a circuit board down to the component level. I have a love for all things Superman; Siri on my phone even calls me the 'Last Son of Krypton!' I am passionate about having authentic communication with those I meet and engage with. I value active listening skills and empathy.

Now onto a few of your specific questions, some of which I may have answered in the above statement.

1. What the first thing you'd do if you won the lottery?

- Sit down.

2. What is your definition of success?

- True happiness without relying on anyone else for it! (as of this email, I'm winning!)

3. What's next on your bucket list?

- Private pilot's license

4. What's something few people know about you?

- I have run a total of 4, half-marathons. One of which was a Tuff Mudder in St Louis, 2012.

5. Do you live by any words of wisdom?

- "Live life without expectations. This way you are never disappointed but always pleasantly surprised."

Respectfully,

Brian May

**"Burn the land and boil the sea, you can't take the sky from me". -Serenity**



## April Birthdays

Steve Galliher ( KFØSJG ) 5th

Larry Lake ( KBØLCO ) 6th

'Doc Buckley ( W3MEB ) 20th



### WHO'ZIT?

As a consultant, I found myself often traveling on business. One project included a trip to Europe where I was able to spend a weekend in London. Already tired from jet lag and a couple of long days of work, I didn't want to waste my time catching up on sleep in the hotel. More interested in technology than art or music, I went on a self-directed walking tour of the HMS Belfast, a famous British WWII battleship converted into a museum. I was by myself so I could go through at my own pace.

Suddenly, I found myself flanked on both sides by two large and heavily armed soldiers with automatic weapons. "Who are you, and how did you get here!" they demanded. I had somehow taken a wrong turn and was standing beside a rocketlauncher of an active duty ship docked next to the Belfast! I was politely escorted off and returned to the museum tour route. **Modern Weapon and Nuclear Signage!!!** It didn't register till later that I should have known something was out of place for a WWII ship!

So, which unassuming SPARK member do you think would be able to dress like a tourist and innocently wander unnoticed into the secure area of a military facility? No one was able to correctly identify our own **Harry Burford (KØTV)** who will be this month's brownie recipient!

### **WHO'ZIT? April Victim**

We took our camera and went remote to produce training tapes for disabled & handicapped folks; to bring them up to minimum standards so they could be hired to work.

Also taped a motel maid while doing her job in Warsaw as well as a training tape in the Lamy Levi factory. Other gigs included a taping in a barn yard of individuals working with a calf. One of the most memorable was an opportunity at the local TV broadcast station which garnered us a job to produce a TV Commercial.

Your's Truly served as the actor at Dog n' Suds for that commercial.



Who am I?

Contact or e-mail me at: [Connie.Koch@att.net](mailto:Connie.Koch@att.net)



## **SPARK YOUTUBE CHANNEL VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS!**



**Scott, (KJ4MFW) invites all to enjoy the many excellent videos he has produced featuring members of our Klub! You may access the entire collection at:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/@WA0SDO>**

**SPARK ARC Winter Field Day Highlights Video 2023 (Sedalia, MO)**

**TURKEY TROT 2022 Sedalia, MO (updated)**

**ARES SET 2022 SPARK ARC (WA0SDO) Sedalia, MO**

**SPARKFEST 2022 Video**

**WA0SDO POTA CLUB ACTIVATION 2022**

**POTA...and many more!**

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**TECH TALK**

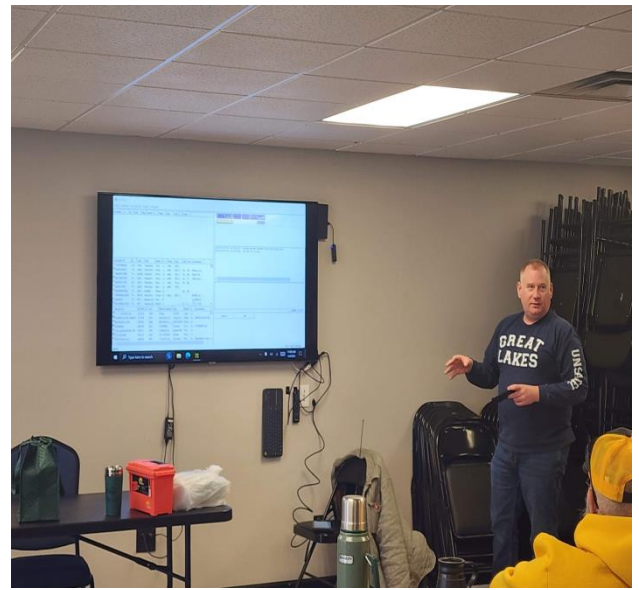
**YAESU FUSION WORKSHOP**

**Brian (N7BFM), Dwayne (KB9TQJ), Daren Nerad (KDØOPS)**

## **Our Technology – What is System Fusion?**

System Fusion is Yaesu's implementation of Digital Amateur Radio, utilizing C4FM 4-level FSK Technology to transmit digital voice and data over the Amateur radio bands. In the early 2000's GMSK emerged in the Amateur radio market as the dominant digital mode, however in 2013 Yaesu introduced "System Fusion" which quickly became the dominating digital format in Amateur radio because of quality, reliability and enhanced performance in a wide range of environments.

Digital Communication modes have gained popularity over the years in the market because of superior performance in environments with interference, noise and other contributing factors that degrade the quality of a standard FM Analog signal. Narrower bandwidth and the need for increased spectrum have led to the development of digital communications technology, which has been widely adopted in the Public safety and private business sectors that use two-way radio technology. Unlike its commercial counterpart, *System Fusion* is an Amateur Friendly Digital Operating mode, straying away from some of the design considerations that make commercial solutions less appealing and more difficult for Amateur Radio Operators, providing a simpler interface and features that meet the demands and needs of the *Amateur* enthusiast specifically. Below you will find more information on this marvelous new technology, and how it can meet every operators demand and needs for a clear and simple Digital Experience.



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## YA' JUST HAD TO BE THERE TO BELIEVE IT !!!

At the March meeting we were challenged by Bret (WØVK) to enter into a local 2 Meter Net Contest amongst ourselves to make 10 contacts over the next month. We were to report results back to him at which time we would be included in the Great Certificate Give-Away at the April meeting! At one point, that very afternoon, between 3:27 and 4:45 on Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup>, the band turned into a virtual feeding frenzy among 10 to 12 operators! Hi Hi! It was rumored that WAØQCJ announced that she was 'trolling for contacts'. Obviously it worked because she had her 10 contacts turned into Bret within an hour! ... and she still wasn't the first to do so! Dennis (KYØP) was really moppin' 'em up around 4:46 because he virtually had a captive audience and all were anxious to make their contacts with him. This was a ton-a-fun and was actually a good mini-lesson in how to 'contest'! Have YOU made your 10 contacts yet? Time's a wastin'! Get on it!



Congratulations



Rob, of Lowery City, earned his Technician License!



Daren – (KDØOPS) es Paul – (KDØETL)

Two very successful Technician License classes have been completed with a total of 16 hours of training time. Seven students finished the class and will be returning to test tentatively on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. This class had two young ladies ages 10 and 12 and we were very pleased to have the youth involvement. Some students expressed an interest in a General License class and a 2-day training will be scheduled for a date in April TBA.



## TOM HUTCHINGS (KDØOPV) TAKES OUR MESSAGE TO SCHOOL!



On March the 7th I had the privilege of giving the students at St Paul's Parochial School a brief presentation in coordination with the State Wide Tornado Drill.

I gave a presentation to K through 4th grade first (see photo) then 4th through 7th. I gave a brief overview of the importance of Sedalia, Pettis County EMA. Among other topics I stressed the vital importance of what Storm Spotters do in the field and the critical role that Amateur Radio communications play in

emergency situations. I emphasized the value that the members of SPARK Ham Radio operators add to that communications effort.

The younger kids laughed when I asked if they would like to be Hams. I was able to explain to the older students the fun and vital role that Amateur Radio operators can provide for our communities. I believe that the presentations were well received by all, plus it gave the kids a little break from classroom activities! Hi Hi

de ( KDØOPV)

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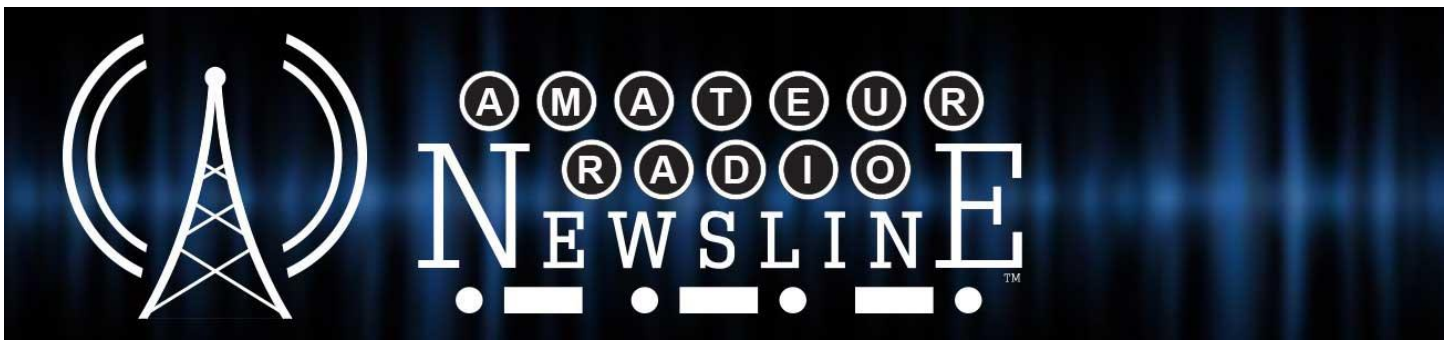
## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY FROM THE KATY R.R.

de – Mike Hawkins (KEØUHO)



Mike brought this piece of history, an antique telegraph key, to the March meeting for show-and-tell. It is one of the original telegraph keys used by the KATY Railroad at the turn of the century.

(Nah...it wouldn't fit in my purse or Mike would probably still be a lookin' for it right now!) Hi Hi (QCJ)



## Tornado Season and Amateur Radio

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03/17/2023

Tornado season is fast approaching, and amateur radio operators will again play a key role in helping the National Weather Service (NWS) issue accurate and timely warnings. In fact, March through May is considered the most active period for tornadoes to develop.

The NWS reports there have already been 255 preliminary filtered reported tornadoes and 213 confirmed tornadoes in the United States in 2023. Worldwide, nine tornado-related deaths have been confirmed all of them in the United States.

January saw the third-highest number of tornado watches and confirmed tornadoes of any January on record in the United States. Additionally, the first two months of the year saw the fourth-highest number of confirmed tornadoes for the first 59 days of any year on record.

[The SKYWARN® \(weather.gov\)](https://www.weather.gov/skywarn) Storm Spotter Program is available to anyone interested in helping the NWS track and report potentially dangerous weather. Anyone can become a SKYWARN weather spotter, and the information is available at the SKYWARN website. Most states have amateur radio networks that are activated during severe weather. Trained volunteers use their radios to report rapidly changing activity and share the information with local weather offices. A list of the states that have scheduled special weather awareness activities can be found at the [NWS Awareness and Preparedness Calendar \(weather.gov\)](https://www.weather.gov/skywarn).

The NWS Forecast office in Norman, Oklahoma, uses amateur radio as one method of communicating with spotter groups and emergency management organizations. For decades, amateur radio operators have provided invaluable service in support of the SKYWARN storm spotter program by using their unique communications capabilities to share critical information between the NWS, the local emergency management officials, and storm spotter networks.

In 1999, the NWS, along with ARRL, founded SKYWARN Recognition Day to honor the voluntary contributions of thousands of amateur radio operators who play a critical role in keeping the public safe and informed about severe weather conditions. The day is celebrated on the first Saturday in December, and amateur radio spotters can earn awards for participating.

## **IN THE SPOTLIGHT INSIGHT**

I shall continue to post the Newsletter Personality Questions which will put YOU in the SPOTLIGHT for a future issue of SPARK newsletter! Choose any 5 (or more!) questions you'd like to answer and e-mail to: [Connie.Koch@att.net](mailto:Connie.Koch@att.net). You've seen responses from Don (KFØARQ), Doc (W3MEB), Steve (WAØWUY), Renda (KBØUVW), Dennis (KYØP) and Scott (KJ4MWF) and others! What interesting life experiences they have had! We want to hear about YOURS too!

### **Personality Questionnaire**

**How did you get involved in HAM Radio and how long have you been a Ham?**

**What's your favorite way to spend a day off?**

**What's next on your bucket list?**

**What's your favorite TV show(s)?**

**What are your favorite pastimes or hobbies in addition to HAM Radio?**

**What's a funny joke you'd like to share?**

**What's your most prized possession and why?**

**What's the first thing you'd do if you won the lottery?**

**What's something few people know about you?**

**What cause(s) are you passionate about?**

**What possession or item would you NOT want to live without?**

**What's the best gift you ever received?**

**What's the worst gift you ever received?**

**Is there one job you'd never want to do?**

**What's a favorite job you'd like to do?**

**Who inspires you?**

**What's your favorite thing about your job OR retirement?**

**What makes you most happy?**

**Who has made a great impact on your life and why?**

**How do you like spending time with family or friends?**

**What's your favorite food (besides Connie's brownies? :-)**

**What's a favorite family memory?**

**What's your nickname (other than your HAM call)?**

**What's been your favorite vacation ever?**

**What equipment would be in your 'Dream' HAM Shack?**

**Do you volunteer? If so, where and why do you enjoy it?**

**Who do you admire most in the world?**

**Do you live by any words of wisdom? Please share them.**

**What is your definition of success?**

**What famous person, would you like to spend a day with and why?**

**If a genie gave you three wishes what would they be?**

**Do you have any special or unusual skills?**

**What's your favorite story about yourself?**

## SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS (KAØJWA)



Spring has sprung and it's time to start thinking about some radio projects! Maybe it's time for a new antenna or possibly a new rig. Field Day is heading this way fast. Hamfests will be popping up like mushrooms (or at the least, toadstools).

Pick out something to do and have fun with Amateur Radio. Keep the bands active and alive. As the saying goes "Use it or Lose it"



**QRT FOR NOW! de WAØQCJ es KAØJWA**







