



S.P.A.R.K.

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

January 2023
ISSUE No. 12



NEWSLETTER

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

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Connie Koch (WAØQCJ)
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By Connie Koch (WAØQCJ)

EDITOR'S MOMENT

Greetings SPARK Members!

Geeze! It's hard to believe that 2022 has booted us right into 2023...all in one swift kick! What an OUTSTANDINGLY successful SPARK-A-LICIOUS year we have just put to bed! 2022 may be in our rear view mirror but in this month of January we're already looking at a DMR workshop immediately after our January meeting at 8:30 on the 7th at the EOC building.

Plan to attend our upcoming workshops immediately after monthly meetings!

January – DMR Workshop

February – Antenna 101 Building Workshop

March – Yaesu Fusion 101 Workshop

April – APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) Workshop

May – Pi-Star Hotspot Workshop

Following up, on **January 28 and 29 our Winter Field Day** will take place at the same location. More about that at our upcoming meeting! Seems like we just can't get enough of US + Ham Radio...and that's a GOOD thing! See you at our Klub meeting at 8:30, on the 7th.

Connie (WAØQCJ)

WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year SPARK!

I'm very thankful for each one of you that has been involved with the Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Klub this last year! As we move into 2023, I hope you have HAM radio plans or goals for this New Year. If not already, I'd like to ask a favor of you -- **Please put Ham Radio on your list of New Year's Resolutions.**

Here are some ideas to consider:

If you are not yet a licensed Ham Radio Operator or know someone that is not licensed, please get your license and encourage others to do the same this year. If you have not yet passed your General or Extra test, do it this year. Having trouble studying or passing? Have a look at some tips on this Web-Site that I think will be helpful. HamStudy.org: [Cutting edge amateur radio study tools](#) and look under the links section.

Try something. I've heard some say that there are 100 different kinds of Ham Radio, and there's something there for everyone that's for sure. FM repeaters and HF SSB honestly just scratch the surface. You already have a computer I'm sure, so be mindful that new digital and sound card modes seem to appear monthly as a new common mode. Not all that long ago, we had not heard of FT-8. It's now, by many accounts, the most popular HF Digital mode and we know if your ears are not the best, this makes a great mode for you! (Don (KF0ARQ) can attest). Have you tried 6 Meters yet? "The Magic Band" has been known to yield some exciting contacts and as you know from talk during our meetings our 6 meter repeater will be in full swing later this year. Or maybe try some SSB or CW on 2 Meters this year. Remember that every Ham has full privileges on all of the bands above 30 MHz. Antennas for VHF and UHF are small and easy to construct from basic hardware store parts, Dwayne KB9TQJ will be getting us in the right direction with his upcoming workshop. Remember It doesn't have to be pretty, even ugly antennas will radiate just as well. Use your imagination and let's try something different!

Do something. Set an achievable Ham Radio goal for the year -- and then work at it! Earn [DXCC \(DXCC Rules \(arrl.org\)\)](#) or [WAS \(WAS \(arrl.org\)\)](#), maybe on a single band? Better your contest score by 10%? Get your CW speed up to 20 WPM or just build on what you learned from Connie's CW Class? Reorganize and rewire the shack? Order a HAM Antenna book, Operating Guide book, or just any material to increase your technical knowledge? Convert your paper logs to electronic format and start using Logbook of the World or at least QRZ log books? And remember like the saying goes "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're probably right." Just do it this year!!

Build something. Not all that many years ago, I tasked myself with some soldering projects, there are plenty on-line to choose from, but I honestly found it very fun to make something that I can actually use which were a couple AM and FM radios, clocks, testers and a few others items. It really gave me a better understanding to the electrical components of a HAM radio and turned out to be quite fun in the process. As we go into this New Year remember our workshops, there are going to be plenty of opportunities to build something, but don't wait on that, make something on your own and bring it to a meeting for show and tell!! Also, one of our members Chris KC0TKS has some really cool QRP kits; just ask him about them sometime, you will be impressed. Download a free antenna modeling program and learn how to use it to design and build your own Homebrew

antenna. Order a kit and assemble it. Melt some solder and have fun! Once you start, I bet you'll be hooked.

Teach something. You know how to do things others don't, please share your knowledge! Please volunteer to help out on a club workshop to teach the basics to other members? Many topics can be of interest for instance a demonstration on crimping and using Anderson Powerpoles? Or properly installing coax connectors?

Become a "HAMbassador" for SPARK. Get just one person (or two, or three) interested in Amateur Radio and invite them to our meetings. Offer to demonstrate Ham Radio at a youth event or maybe even the Senior Center. I challenge you to draft a new youth member this year, our club has incentives for this, Paul (KD0ETL) /Marsha (KF0HYQ) and Dwayne (KB9TQJ) will provide fees and first time HT radio costs for free.

Get involved! Please attend our meetings! The camaraderie is great I really enjoy your company and our discussions! You don't need to volunteer for everything... select an area that interests you, and help with that. Even better, suggest an activity and then take the lead in organizing it. Something as simple as "I'm going to set up a portable station at the park on Saturday morning; everyone is welcome to come by!" This has been proven to be a favorite among members!! Check out the POTA (Parks On The Air) Web site for even more fun. Scott (KJ4MFW) has been our lead for the last year on this but he would like some help, as the weather gets nicer this spring I would like to resume a monthly POTA event for the club, but it take all of us to share in leading.

Most of all, resolve to have more fun with Ham Radio in 2023!! Once again, I am sincerely honored to be your club President and I wish you and your family the best for a happy, healthy, and safe 2023.

-Bret (W0VK)

Next Meeting - January 7thth at 8:30 AM at Pettis County EOC
Located at 1511 N. Ohio

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 7:00 PM – Rag Chew net operator Dennis (KYØP) 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)

03/11/2023 - Boonville Amateur Radio Club Annual Hamfest

Location: Lone Elm, MO

Sponsor: Boonville Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w0brc.org>

07/15/2023 - Hamfest 2023

Sponsor: WAARCI

Location: Johnson County Fairgrounds Warrensburg, MO

08/13/2023 - SCARC Hamfest

Sponsor - St. Charles Amateur Radio

Location: Elks Lodge- O'Fallon, MO



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This month's featured SPARK member is Don Weldon (KFØARQ)...alias 'Clown Extraordinaire'! Don has a life-skill that I found intriguing and I felt many of our members would as well. Don shares experiences of 20+ years with us.

Q. Did you ever go to Clown College?

A. At the time I joined the Aarat Shrine Clown Unit, I went to Clown School with Priscilla Mooseburger. She had been with Barnum & Bailey Circus for a number of years and I spent time in her class learning costumes and makeup. I have performed at the Shrine Circus every year and have been a Shriner for 40 years.

Q. What was your inspiration for becoming a clown?

A. I rode little motorcycles with the Fun Kor for 10 years before becoming a clown. When the Kor disbanded, I joined the clown unit in KC. I liked the idea of dressing up and making kids smile.

Q. What are the personas of the clowns you have in your arsenal? Do you have a favorite?

A. 'Chief' is my #1 Clown. I portray him in most parades. 'Circus' is #2. The 'Hobo' clown is 'Dapper Don'...a gentleman's gentleman or butler. Depending on the



mood, I will do him now and then. My # 3 'Parade Only' costume was worn when I was in the Fun Kor.

Q. Describe some of the skits you have done.

A. Some of the skits could be intricate, but most involved slapstick. Lots of physical comedy with several clowns involved in a skit.

Q. Tell us about being a senior clown who mentors the newcomers. What skills do you pass along to the newbies?

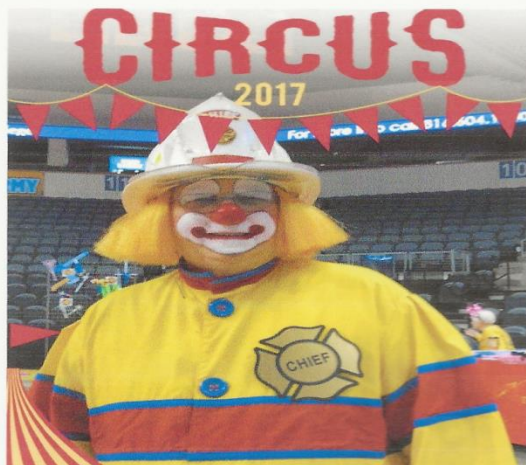
A. Like Ham Radio have 'Elmers', clowns have 'Joeys'... senior clowns who help new clowns learn how to put on makeup, give suggestions on costumes and assist in choosing the 'character' of the clown-to-be. So many choices! Hobo, tramp, auguse (flesh colored face) or white face. As an example, my character, 'Chief' is an auguse character.

Q. What have been some of your most enjoyable moments as a clown?

A. All of them! The parades, the circus, special trips to group homes and visiting with individuals with special needs.

Q. Where do clowns shop for clown clothing and props?

A. There are shops online to get costumes, makeup, and props. Big feet are hard to find. They have to be handmade to an individual's measurements and are quite costly! One pair can cost \$500! It's like radio...you pay for what you want!





Steve Demoss (WAØWUY) – January 25th



WHO'ZIT?

I have something in common with Col. Harland Sanders...Mr. Kentucky Fried Chicken



himself! We have the distinction of being members of ‘The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels’ bestowed upon us by the Governor of Kentucky. No one identified the victim as being myself, (WAØQCJ) . In 2006 I participated in a seven week, 2700 mile long bicycle trek weaving down the East coast of the US from Ottawa, Canada to South Beach, Florida. I rode for the cause of Organ Donation to honor my son, Jesse, who was a donor in 1998. When we passed through Kentucky,



the Honorable Governor Ernie Fletcher recognized us 7 ‘Five Points of Life’ riders with the Commission of ‘Kentucky Colonel’ for our dedication to the mission and our special achievement. The title of ‘Colonel’ is the highest honor awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky for those recognized as ambassadors of good will and fellowship around the world. Holders are celebrated annually during the Kentucky Derby.

WHO'ZIT?

January Victim – I’ve lived in several locations in the mid-United States from the flat plains and corn fields of Illinois to the rolling hills of Tennessee. I grew up on the river hunting and fishing. In my younger days I would work on my friends’ and my own automobiles, swapping out engines and building hotrods. Several years of cutting hay and tobacco were

some of the first jobs I landed. Interested in electronics, I started programming on Apple computers and bought my first Tandy computer later on. This also led to a general interest in electronics and CB radio which is where I first learned of ham radio. The rest is history!

Who am I?

Contact or e-mail me at: Connie.Koch@att.net



TECH TALK



NEW QUESTIONS ON GENERAL TEST EXAM

PAUL/ANCHOR: In the US, the General Class operators' license test is getting a new question pool. Stephen Kinford N8WB tells us what's changing.

STEPHEN: If you are a ham in the United States looking to upgrade to General in 2023, you can expect some changes in the new pool of questions that take effect on July 1st of 2023. The 432 questions were just released and the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee says they reflect significant changes: There are 51 new questions being introduced; 73 were removed. The committee believes the questions' level of difficulty is more balanced. These questions will be in use through June 30th of 2027.

Examiners can expect to see the new General exam booklets by mid-June of 2023. The ARRL advises hams that are using the 9th edition of the General Class License Manual or the 6th edition of the league's General Class Q&A to take their exam no later than June 30th before the changed questions come in.

This is Stephen Kinford N8WB. (ARRL)

THE DAY HAM RADIO WENT TO SCHOOL!



Sedalia School District 200

"In December, second grade students at Horace Mann Elementary read "From Type Writers to Computers" and "Click Clack Moo...Cows that Type." Ms. Connie Koch brought in her vintage typewriter, Morse code practice box, and a ham radio. Students discussed how communication has changed as well as the importance of Ham Radio. Students were also able to talk to another local ham radio operator. It was a great experience for the students."



BACKSTORY TO THIS ARTICLE

The above article from the school district tells the facts but not the full (and FUN) story behind the event! The class had just started their chapter on Communications and *this gal's* (WAØQCJ) ears perked right up! They needed a lesson in Ham Radio! Getting right down to the Radio lesson...I showed the class a page of Morse Code alphabet and got them started verbally 'dittin' and 'dahin' through about half the alphabet to get them warmed up. Then I showed them a vintage key that made no sound but the practice code oscillator did. I sent out several characters for them to hear as well as spelled some of their names which they enjoyed. When I told them that Hams not only use Morse Code but we also do voice phone transmissions. I asked them if they'd like for me to see if I could contact another Ham on the radio? Well, YES they did! In the meantime I had conspired with Don, (KFØARQ) as my accomplice to be monitoring for my call to him. I gave him a call out and when he came back... that room *ERUPTED* when he responded! I asked Don to give the class an overview of the benefits of Ham radio and being the pro that he is...he *WOWED* those kids! He informed them that they could own a real Ham radio for less than the cost of their bike! Don asked if the class had any questions for him and 3 stepped up to the mic' and the first two asked some spot-on questions. The third little boy started telling Don what he wanted for Christmas!!! He thought he was Santa! I explained that Don wasn't Santa but that Santa IS a Ham Radio Operator. As we know for a *true* fact...'Santa On The Air' can be accessed at 3.916 for a QSO

with the Big Guy himself!!! As the QSO wound down and we signed off, Richard (KEØQYA) jumped in there as he was running mobile over by Boonville. Well, once again...to the kids, Boonville was like the end of the earth! The second afternoon class was likewise treated to check-ins from Renda (KBØUVW) and Lori (KFØIHX). Lori identified herself from Cole Camp and one of the student's grandparents lived there. I understand that others of you were monitoring our 'Day Ham Radio Went To School' and hope you found it both entertaining and educational. As Bret (WØVK) stated at our December meeting ...the future of Ham Radio is out there waiting to be recruited. It's up to us to do it. *If you are interested in hearing the audio presentation of our on-air exchange it can be accessed on our Web Site - SPARK NETS ARCHIVES at: 2ND GRADE.FUTURE HAMS.MP3*



BRASS POUNDERS LEAGUE



Our class of Brass Pounders have completed their Monday evening Morse Code classes and home study! It was a pleasure to

have mentored all of you students. I appreciate your attendance and hard work. I hope you are taking away from the class a quality life-skill you can build upon to include in your Ham Radio arsenal of knowledge. Best wishes as you continue to progress. de (WAØQCJ)



SPD's Coloring Contest Rewards Winners With Drones and Trophies



Police Chief, Matt Wirt and Officer Nick Camirand (KEØNIL) are shown with three students from Skyline Elementary School who were surprised with drones and trophies for their artistic prowess recently. Every Sedalia elementary school student was provided a color page of a drone to decorate. After judging, three students from each school were declared winners. SPD teamed up with local sponsors whose overwhelming support made it possible to exceed their original goal of only *one* student per school! Camirand stated, “It was awesome! I knew it would make more kids happy and that was the mission at hand.” “The coloring contest was for fun; we did it because we wanted to give back to the kids that are always supportive of us.”

Having a parting moment with St. Nick (KEØVCR) and the Missus’ (KFØVCR) as they prepare to head for Warsaw, Mo. to serve as Grand Marshals for the local Christmas parade. Certainly an honor well deserved by our respected SPARK members, Rex and Ann Green!



LOCAL CLUB SAYS ‘NO’ TO CHICKEN SALAD!

By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene

GRAND RAVINE, South Dakota –A fist fight broke out Sunday afternoon at a local amateur radio club meeting in downtown Grand Ravine. The Mt. Agnes Radio Society was discussing Winter Field Day plans in the private room of the Village Inn while their regular meeting location, Golden Corral, undergoes much needed renovation.



Tempers boiled over as the conversation went from radios to antennas to food. Local ham radio operator Walter “Scruffy” Smith volunteered to bring his “famous” chicken salad to feed the group of 20 Field Day volunteers. Instantly, five men stood up and walked to the door, stating they “...could not handle another case of ‘back door trots’ like last year.”

Defiantly, the 82-year-old Smith challenged the group to “say that to his face” and began swinging clenched fists. Although the five men were far across the room, police say Smith’s roundhouse blow connected with 79-year-old Maggie Peterson, wife of former club president Max Peterson of Lincolnville County.

Peterson, a former Roller Derby dame (*watch out for those skaters!*) in previous decades, was unscathed by the blow and in fact, challenged Smith “to take another shot if he was man enough.”

Police add it is unlikely Smith would have actually hit anyone if he hadn’t been thrown off-balance due to his arthritic hip and the body contact may have come as Smith was attempting to catch himself from falling.

The meeting was immediately adjourned when Village Inn manager Marguerite Thomas stormed into the room and declared there would be no senior discounts “if this ruckus doesn’t stop.”

For now, meal plans remain undecided for Field Day in Grand Ravine, South Dakota.

hamhijinks.com



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. 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)

FIELD DAY 2023 WILL BE JUNE 24 -25
GET IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

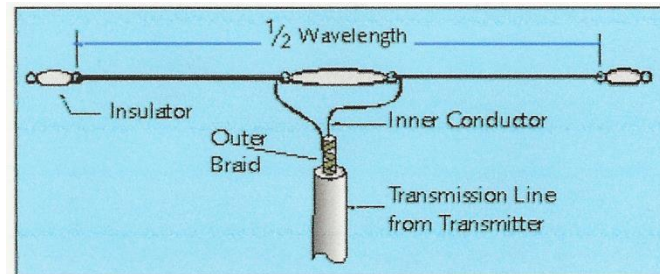
SIX METER FUN



Many of the newer rigs come with 6 Meters right out of the box. A lot of operators don't take advantage of this and miss out on the fun to be had. Six is a lot like ten meters in many respects. For the most part, if you can hear a station well, they can usually hear you. When it's open, you don't have to have a kilowatt and giant Yagi to work the world.

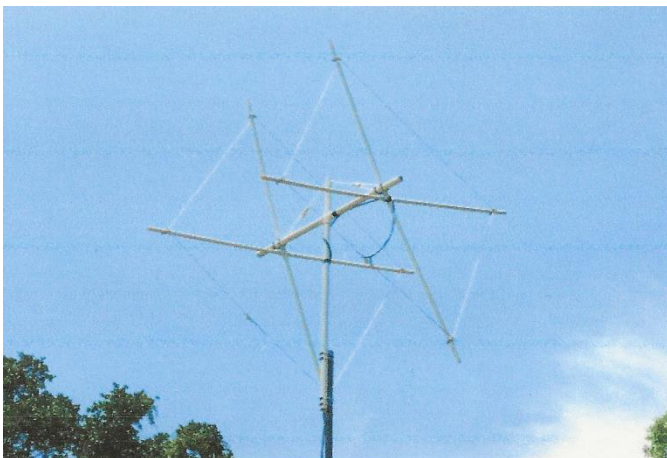
A simple dipole will work or a vertical such as the Ringo Ranger AR-

6, also provides satisfactory results but do keep in mind, the bigger the antenna, the bigger the signal.

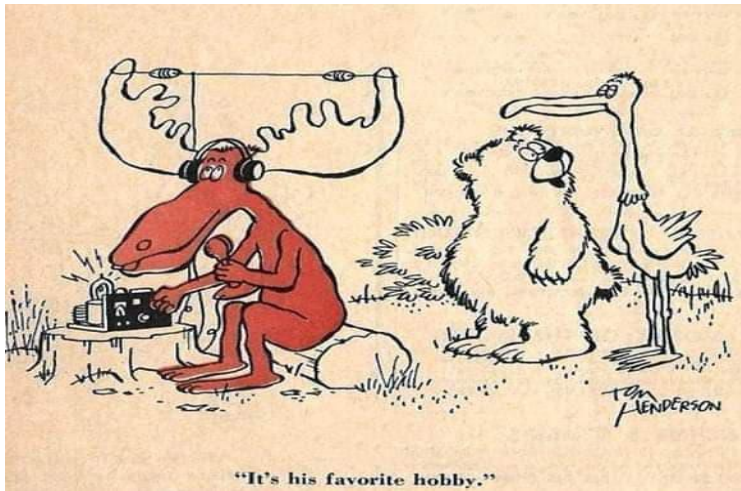


A simple three element Yagi or quad would probably be all the antenna you would ever need.

However you manage to get operational on six meters, I'm sure you'll have a great time. With some perseverance and just a little luck, you'll be kicking yourself for not investigating this band sooner.



Homebrew 6 meter Quad



**GET SOME AIR TIME...
USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

**QRT FOR NOW! de
WAØQCJ es KAØJWA**

