



S.P.A.R.K.

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

August 2023
ISSUE No. 19



NEWSLETTER

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

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

INSIDE

Editor's Moment
Connie (WAØQCJ)

Word From Our President
Bret (WØVK)

Nets / Frequencies

Hamfest Calendar 2023

Monthly Birthdays

Who'Zit

Tech Talk

Signing Off

By Connie Koch
(WAØQCJ)



EDITOR'S MOMENT

Greetings SPARK Members!

Following up on a dizzying month of activity in June, we finished up July with a most successful POTA event spearheaded by Joel, (KEØWJX) at Knob Noster State Park with great attendance and beautiful WX! However, *only the night before*, our 2-Meter Repeater was activated into Storm Watch mode with monitoring stations prepared to quickly and efficiently track and report the storm's progress to Weather Net keeping all informed moment by moment. HAMS once again answered the call and fulfilled an important community service. It is JUST WHAT WE DO!

As a side note, I would just offer up this 'Connie' service for those in need of it. I have access to SPARK members' names, calls, e-addresses and phone numbers at my fingertips if you are ever in need of such. I'm happy to provide you that information so feel free to ask. Until we meet again...

73 Connie (WAØQCJ)

WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hey SPARK!

It's August, and that means it's Fair Time here in Sedalia. The town gets busy, the traffic increases and the all the hotels in town sell out! The good news is we have HAM Radio and we can communicate regardless of the goings on in town, in fact we just might hear a new call sign over our repeater and let's race to welcome this HAM to our city that is visiting and let them know about our club. I have made contacts before during the fair and hand delivered the QSL cards to the campgrounds, let me tell you, it's pretty cool. Try it if you get a chance.

I want to give a Big Thanks to Joel KE0WJX for setting up a great POTA event this month at the Knob Noster State Park! Our club events simply just take a SPARK to ignite a huge participation event and Joel certainly did that for us Saturday, July 15th, thank you to all those that showed up and participated to make this event a HUGE success, I loved seeing all the pictures! I also want to thank Richard for sharing information on the 13 Colonies and motivating us to get out there and make contacts with those east coast stations, that was a great time too. I personally did not get all the 13 colonies but I know some of you did, Awesome Job!

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on August 12!!
See you there!

73 Bret (WØVK)

WORKSHOPS WILL RESUME AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

Next Meeting – August 12th 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)

08/5/2023 - Hamfest 2023

Location: Johnson County Fairgrounds Warrensburg, MO

Sponsor: WAARCI

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING WARRENSBURG HAMFEST!

SPARK MEMBERS! IT WAS VOTED AT THE JULY MEETING TO CHANGE OUR AUGUST MEETING DATE TO AUGUST 12TH SO THAT WE MAY BE FREE TO ATTEND AND SUPPORT OUR WAARI BROTHER AND SISTER HAMS AT THEIR HAMFEST ON AUGUST 5TH. IT'S ALWAYS A GOODUN'! WE WILL BE HOSTING A SPARK TABLE.

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

Talk-in
146.670 alt 145.330

St Charles Amateur Radio Club

Hamfest
August 13 2023
Elks Lodge—1163 Tom Ginnever Ave., O'fallon, MO. 63366
LAT 38.822—LONG 090.667931W

Vendor Hall
opens 8am-12pm
Tailgater Flea Market
7am - 12pm

2 GRAND DOOR PRIZES
ICOM 7300 prize "A"
Yaesu FT 710 AESS prize "B"
DOOR PRIZES EVERY 30 MINUTES

Admission / Door Prize Tickets
1 for \$7.00 or 5 for \$25.00

Vendor Tables
Before July 30th 1st & 2nd table \$20 each,
3rd table \$10, 4th table and beyond \$5
After the 30th \$25 per table

8' tables, chairs and electric provided at no cost
Help provided to load and unload (One vendor admission wrist tag per table 2 tags if one table)

Tailgater Flea Market \$10 per space
Located out Front where the Action is

Special Limited Raffles
Yaesu FTM300DR
\$10 per ticket Only 50 to be Sold That's It!
If the 50th ticket is sold by 10 am
we draw the winner and raffle a 2nd
Can only be purchased inside at Hamfest
Must be present to win

VENDORS
Associated Radio
Silver Needle Embroidery
D&L Antenna
Bob Heil Presentaion
KGOKP Jims J-Poles
& more

CONTACT: Doug Wheeler KOHKK (314) 660-0674. (cell) Please leave message if no answer. Email: scarc.hamfest@gmail.com

OFFICIAL SPARKFEST FLIER

COPY AND FEEL FREE TO PRINT, POST, AND SHARE!



SPARKFEST 2023

8am-12pm

Saturday October 14th in Sedalia, MO

at Our Savior Lutheran Church

3700 West Broadway

"Central Missouri's Biggest Hamfest"

Last year's event sold out quickly. Tables \$15.00

each Tailgate Spaces are \$10.00 each

📧Sparkfest is registered with the ARRL📧

Associated Radio, D&L Antena, Alpha Antena, Sew and Stitch, Salvation Army Saturn Trailer are just a few of our returning vendors this year.

General Admission \$5.00 (includes 1 Raffle Ticket)

Door Prize Drawings Every 30 Minutes

Testing will be offered at 10am

For further information contact by email:

Bret (w0vk) Club President hota2@hotmail.com

Richard (ke0qya) Club VP ke0qya@yahoo.com

Setup Friday October 13th 3pm-8pm or day of at 6am



August Birthdays
Nick Camirand – August 4th

WHO'ZIT?

August Victim

Several interesting facts surround our August Victim!
Mull these over and give it your best shot!



- * My Mom was the *very first* Miss Sedalia!!!
- * I am a life-long Sedalian myself.
- * I was a student at SFCC the first year it was open...(Plywood 'U')
- * I studied small Brown Bats and went to caves to tag them!
- * My first job was at Tasty Freeze.
- * I was a (Boy or Girl) Scout.
- * I was a Presidential Delegate.
- * At age 14 I had a CB Radio on my bike!
- * My favorite female singer is Stevie Nicks.
- * My favorite vacation spot is in the Rockies or anywhere out West.

Who could I be???

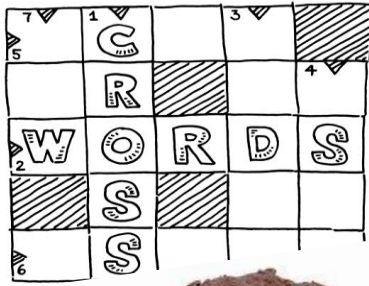
Contact or e-mail me at: Connie.Koch@att.net



Meet our newest KLUB member, Isabella Holt! She is interested in obtaining her Tech license and has been studying hard toward that goal. Isabella happened by our E-Com trailer during the Scott Joplin Festival and was given encouragement and guidance by our members. She is very enthusiastic about being a member of SPARK and has a 2-M HT with which she will be monitoring the locals. Do give

her a shout out during our 2-M Nets!

Little Sister Will Be Listening For Us!



CHRIS' – CROSS !

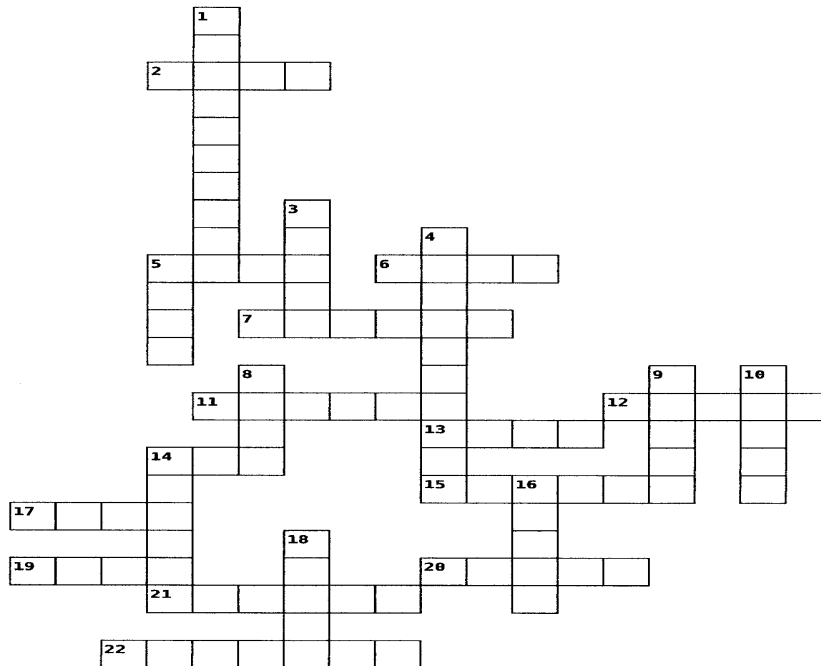
de (KCØTKS)

PUZZLE FANS!!! What do these two images have in common???

This brownie...surrounded by a pan of others... can be **YOURS** if you can solve Chris' Crossword Puzzle of the month **FIRST!**

Your mission...complete the puzzle **within 7 days** and send photo proof to Chris at admin@wa0sdo.org right away and set claim to your prize! Be **FIRST** in line with the 'goods'! Puzzle will be available on SPARK website for easy download to print! Answers will be posted on our website **one week** after puzzle appears in your newsletter! Brownie prize delivered at following meeting!

SPARKword puzzle - August



Across

- 2. The Duke of Windsor
- 5. Dresden dude
- 6. Top Dog's bro.
- 7. The Duchess of Windsor
- 11. The Queen
- 12. APRS advocate
- 13. Roy's dad
- 14. Not an expensive car but he's our Alpha Romeo
- 15. Where's the beef?
- 17. Echo squared
- 19. Hugh's villain
- 20. Most wisdom in Klub
- 21. NASCAR nut
- 22. Veep

Down

- 1. They live downtown (3 words)
- 3. He keeps repeating things
- 4. Palindrome person (2 words)
- 5. Zed
- 8. We treasure him (or vice-versa)
- 9. Mama Finch
- 10. A TV that records
- 14. Alpha Delta Zero
- 16. Petite XYL
- 18. Dog walking victim



TECH TALK (or...not so much)

LOCAL HAM UPSET FIELD DAY HAS LOST ITS SPIRIT



By [K5PO](#), on the scene

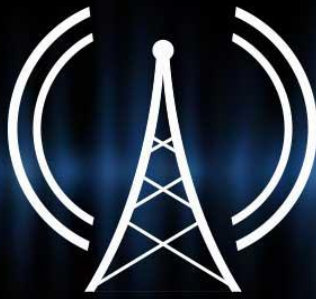
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS — Billy Putnam is a ham radio purist. And he feels his club has lost their way and it's ruining their annual Field Day event.

Putnam is a senior member of the Hopeless Flats Radio Club from Leavenworth County, Kansas. The largest amateur radio club in the area has hosted a highly successful Field Day event for the last 27 years, but Putnam says success is in the eye of the beholder. "So many of the new guys... they just seem to love nothing more than to operate."

"They arrive bright and early and slave and sweat over raising the antennas and then promptly sit down and laugh and operate for hours. They talk to visiting elected officials about the value of emergency communication, and then they offer to Elmer some youngsters. These guys *just don't get it!*" said Putnam.

Putnam notes that "back in his day" Field Day was about far more than operating and ham radio. "I remember in 1991, we had three potluck tables under the big tent we rent from Ed's Tentery," said Putnam. "It was amazing, with ribs, brisket, baked beans, lasagna, deep fried chicken, and mounds of mashed potatoes. *That* was how Field Day was done. This year they wanted to set up the radios under the tent and the only food these guys brought was two bags of Tostitos corn chips!" "A bunch of unlicensed youngsters showed up around noon and ate all fried chicken I brought, he said. "They all built dipoles for the band of their choice and then operated on Martin's old Collins. They didn't even have them take turns flipping burgers on the grill! Heck, they didn't even *bring* the grill!" "If things don't change next year," threatened Putnam, "I'm just not going to bring my famous Mystery Jell-O anymore!" Field Day notes from the past seven years indicated literally no one had ever eaten any of Bill Putnam's Jell-O, citing an odd "fuzziness" that all felt was unwelcome in a gelatin product.

###hamhijinks.com



AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINES

THE WOUFF-HONG

The Meaning of the Wouff-Hong

"The Wouff-Hong is amateur radio's most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation."

The Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1930, page 11



My Wouff-Hong -KG2IC

I checked my backpack once again; just to be sure it was still there. It was, and its finish though now dull, still bespoke of a proud past. Of my radio purchases over the past 5 years, this simple item, purchased for less than one would spend on a lunch, had eclipsed them all. Let me explain.

On August 14, 1999 Bill K2LNU and I attended the moving sale of our friend, Fred Hammond VE3HC in Guelph, Ontario. I had first met Fred 4 years ago, when I was still quite new to the hobby. Fred, licensed since 1929, had established and maintained the outstanding Hammond Museum of Radio in his hometown of Guelph. Bill and I, along with many others, had become frequent visitors to his museum. His warm "V.. E.. 3.. H-Henry..C-Charlie" had greeted me several times on 75 meter AM as a return to my call of "CQ". However, in 1998 Fred sadly suffered a stroke, and although recovering, has been absent from the air.

At the sale, much of the gear was quickly snapped up, but a garage full of cardboard boxes containing radio parts was left largely untouched. You know the type of the boxes I am speaking about, the kind found under the tables at many a hamfest, covered with alternate layers of dust and grime, so often overlooked by those in quest of more "glamorous" finds. I have always found such boxes truly the proverbial diamonds in the rough, time capsules of radios rich legacy. Needless to say, I was soon busy rooting around in the parts boxes in the garage, boxes that had caught the attention of only a few other amateurs.

I saw a nearby ham pickup, examine curiously and then return to the box an odd shaped metal object. The size and shape certainly looked familiar, but I discounted it, as I would never expect to find such in a box of radio parts. Still, my own curiosity now peaked, I walked over, bent down, and picked up the item for myself. Yes, I thought, as I carefully turned it over in my hands, it really is. Although the once shiny finish was now discolored with age, and caked with decades of dust, there was no mistaking the classic form; it was a "Wouff-Hong".

Beginning in 1917, stories by an anonymous writer using the pseudonym "The Old Man", or "T.O.M." began to appear in the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL) monthly publication QST. Titled the "Rotten Radio" series, they harshly assailed and exposed the poor operating practices of the day with caustic satire and humor. It was in one of these stories, entitled "Rotten QRM", that T.O.M. blasted the gibberish he'd overheard in one particular QSO, citing as an example the words "wouff hong", which apparently was either a concocted abbreviation, or someone's poor attempt at sending.

At the time of the articles T.O.M. did not know what a Wouff-Hong was, but he later adopted it as a disciplinary object with which to both flail bad operating practices and inflict punishment on the perpetrators. It is said that in the following era he had, tongue in cheek, proposed its use as an instrument of torture and discipline, to maintain decency and order in the ham radio community.

It was early in the year 1919 that T.O.M. contributed an article to QST called "Rotten Starting", criticizing the slow progress of the United States government to allow hams to operate again after World War I. It finished with "I am sending you a specimen of a real live Wouff-Hong which came to light when we started to get our junk out of cold storage. Keep it in the editorial sanctum where you can lay your hands on it quickly in an emergency. We will soon be allowed to transmit, and then you will need it." Accompanying this article was a misshapen, wooden, wire-bound two-pronged tuning fork-like object. Yes, the Wouff-Hong.

It was in the July 1919 issue of QST that the portrait of the Wouff-Hong first appeared. At each meeting of the Leagues Board, the Wouff-Hong stood on display, to the humbled looks of the Directors."

Only after his death, was it revealed to all that T.O.M. had actually been Hiram Percy Maxim, the founder and first President of the ARRL. It is said that he took the secret of the origin of the first Wouff-Hong to his grave.

And here, in my hands, was a Wouff-Hong, long considered amateur radios most sacred symbol of law and order. Cast into its base were the words "ARRL National Convention Chicago, IL Sept 3 4 5 1938". I was holding an artifact from the Golden Age of Radio, made some 61 years ago. I found myself thinking back, wondering about the person that had brought this back from the Convention, now some six decades into the past.

What were the concerns and thoughts of this fellow radio amateur a few short years after the Great Depression? Would he even recognize the hobby today, and what would he think about radio signals now being passed through satellites, computers, and even the Internet? Had radio fulfilled its once bright promise? Would he find today's amateur holding to the high principles of the past? I had to wonder if he would be pleased by what he found, or somehow sadly disappointed. Indeed, how would T.O.M himself see things? Would his famous "Rotten Radio" articles still be written, and if so, who or what would be the targets? Had we won the technology battle, only to lose the war for the spirit of the hobby?

Startled back to reality by the crash of a carelessly dropped metal panel upon the garage floor, I again considered my find. Possibly this "Wouff-Hong" was some sort of souvenir, or perhaps an award handed out at the Convention, I still have to research the exact origin. Delighted, I paid the requested \$5 for the item, and carefully placed it with in my backpack for safe keeping until the sale was over. \$5 was indeed a cheap price for a journey back into radios past, affording me the opportunity to examine my own beliefs and hopes for the hobby.

Did this "Wouff-Hong" at one time belong to Fred VE3HC, or was it simply a museum piece carelessly discarded into one of the boxes, discarded and forgotten by a generation that often pays little tribute to past? That question has yet to be answered, but to me, the origin of the piece is not as important as the meaning attached to it, the rich, proud legacy of a magical hobby and the remembrance of a friend.

Bruce W1UJR (ex KG2IC)



Hiram Percy Maxim 1917



JOEL'S POTA PARTY!!! (KEØWJX)

Truer words were never spoken when it was said, "Plan it and they will come"! It was, without a doubt, due to Joel's infectious enthusiasm for his planned *Day In The Park!* Twenty-one Hams and guests enjoyed a morning of radio play that garnered our KLUB the necessary contacts to activate Knob Noster State Park as our official Park on the Air!



Welcome our friends and new members, David (W1OTW) and Melissa (KFØMEE) Marsh! This was their second POTA event with us having enjoyed Islands on the Air with us last month! What a pleasure it is to have you join our SPARK organization! **WELCOME!**







Sedalia-Pettis County Emergency Management Agency

Within our SPARK community the month of July brought with it days of oppressive heat and dry conditions then countered with a couple of thunderstorms the likes of which we hadn't seen all summer! On July 14th nine members of SPARK were activated by Paul (KDØETL), EMA communications controller. Seven of the nine are dual members of EMA and SPARK. Six were spotters and three served as backup communications. These members responded immediately to a Severe Storm Warning weather alert being discharged to locations in the field throughout the county. Their mission... to monitor the movement and WX conditions of a severe storm in our area which had already affected the Kansas City area causing massive damage and power outages to over 60,000 homes. At the same time, Richard, (KEØQYA) activated the 2-Meter Repeater as a dedicated emergency frequency taking check-ins with WX reports from 11 of our members and relaying messages to EMA . This combined effort of EMA and SPARK put countless extra 'eyes on the sky' which were invaluable in charting the course of the storm which produced straight-line gusts of 70 MPH in our area.

A COMMENT FROM WITHIN OUR RANKS – Richard (KEØQYA)

The SPARK Weather Net is not just a Net. Several years ago when Mark (NØOWZ) was the Deputy Director of the EMA, he got me interested in becoming a member. I remember one of our conversations was how we could get our club members involved. Warrensburg ran and still does operate a Weather Net. After our conversation I decided to take on the responsibility of doing a Net.

SPARK members are a important part of EMA. Several of our members are trained weather spotters for EMA. Along with EMA our club members provide valuable information about the weather. Paul (KDØETL) is the radio operator in the event of severe weather for EMA. Our members provide not only Spark information about what's happening but EMA also monitors our Net when it's activated. Sometimes Spark members outnumber EMA Volunteers during a weather event.

All members should be weather aware during those times when the possibility of threatening weather is close or forecasted. TV, weather radio, scanner, and yes...the Spark Weather Net is a great way for members to not only be aware but also provide important information regarding the weather that we can pass along to EMA.

Spark does a Weather Net Exercise during the EMA Siren monthly test beginning at approximately 12:10 pm. All members who can check into the Exercise are encouraged to do so. In the event of a actual weather warning a Net will be on until the warning has expired.

If anyone has questions regarding EMA or the Spark Weather Net please feel free to contact Paul (KDØETL) or Richard (KEØQYA) and we will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

73's Richard (KEØQYA)

**Damage incurred during early July storm at Whiteman AFB RV Storage Area
Images courtesy of Joel (KEØWJX)**



SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS (KAØJWA)

**Ham Radio To The Rescue !
...and we are here...WHY???**



In this era of nearly ubiquitous cell phones, Amateur Radio still offers a way to summon help in an emergency. Ron Smith, N1PXX, of Marshfield, Massachusetts, is living proof. Over Memorial Day weekend, Smith, who's in his 60s, broke in on a conversation on the N1ZIZ 146.685 MHz repeater in Plymouth to say he was having a medical problem. One of the two stations that had been on the repeater — ARRL member Kevin O'Donnell, K1KOD — acknowledged Smith's call and asked for Smith's cell phone number. With some difficulty and assistance from the second

station, David Blackford, KB1QJX, who was visiting the Cape Cod area from Connecticut, O'Donnell was able to call Smith and establish that he needed prompt medical attention. Good save, K1KOD and KB1QJX!!!

YEAH!!! THIS IS WHY!



QRT FOR NOW! de WAØQCJ es KAØJWA

