



# S.P.A.R.K.

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

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## NEWSLETTER

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

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(WAØQCJ)



**EDITOR'S MOMENT  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



## **WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

### **2024 - Here We Come, SPARK!**

SPARK, I'm am very grateful and thankful for each and every one of you that has been involved with the Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Klub this last year! As we move into 2024, I hope you have HAM radio plans or goals for this New Year. I cannot think of a better way to say it better than I did last year so 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](http://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 an ugly antenna 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](http://arrl.org))) or [WAS](#) ([WAS](#) ([arrl.org](http://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 is 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 comradely 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. As the weather gets nicer this spring I would like to resume a monthly POTA event for the club, but it takes all of us to share in leading.

Most of all, resolve to have more fun with Ham Radio in 2024!! Once again, I am sincerely honored to be your Klub President and I wish you and your family the best for a happy, healthy, and safe 2024.

-Bret (W0VK)

## **WORKSHOPS**

**Stay tuned for upcoming workshops in the New Year!**

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**Next Meeting – January 6th at 8:30 AM at Pettis County EOC – 1511 N Ohio St.**

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## **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 2024**

**Brooks, (KAØJWA) will be putting together our 2024 calendar as 'Fests' info is available.**



**January Birthdays**  
**Steve Demoss (WAØWUY) 25th**



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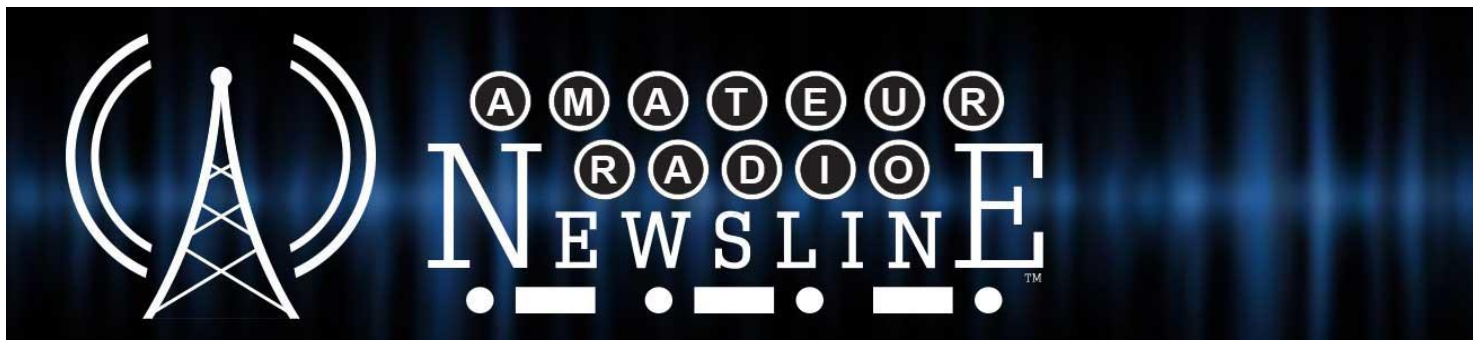
**WHO'ZIT**



I grew up poor, so I had to innovate to make things I wanted. I started by building bicycles from junk parts which lead to me building custom bikes for a few Schwinn bike shops. By the age of 13 I had progressed into doing the same with basket case motorcycles. I acquired a love of fishing at an early age as my grandmother would take me fishing. She would fashion a pole from anything available and line could be anything from fishing line to very small twine. That resulted in my passion for making my own lures and tying flies and jigs. In the past, I have done many survival trips from which I learned a lot. I have been a Scout Master and a Troop Leader. In my late teens and early twenties, I volunteered at a Boy's Club while in college. I and a couple of friends used to take city kids camping and taught them to fish, hunt, and trap. Those associations were game changers for the boys' way of life when they became adults. I have spent most of my ham life on HF. I don't do contests, but I do enjoy making hard to get contacts. I have spent many years working QRP which is very rewarding. I have found great friends locally and abroad from ham radio. I really enjoy the culture of ham radio. We all can learn new things from each other. Others should learn from us as we do not discriminate by age, race, religion, or political beliefs. **WHO AM I?**

Contact Connie at: [Connie.koch@att.net](mailto:Connie.koch@att.net) with your guess!

**OUR MYSTERY WHO'ZIT VICTIM FOR DECEMBER WAS JEFF KESTERSON (WBØLRX) ! JEFF, YOUR IDENTITY WAS NOT DISCOVERED, ( ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MANY GUESSES) ! YOUR PRIZE AWAITS YOU AT OUR JANUARY MEETING!**



## Bandwidth Limits Replace Symbol Rates on the HF Bands, Other Bands Open for Comment 12/08/2023

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The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [published new rules](#) adopted last month that replace the symbol rate restrictions on the HF bands with a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz. The new rules go into effect January 8, 2024.

The bands and band segments affected by the rules change are those authorized for data transmission between 160 and 10 meters, exclusive of 60 meters (where no change was made).

In adopting a bandwidth limit in place of the baud rate limit the FCC agreed with ARRL that some limitation is necessary because "without a baud rate or bandwidth limit, data stations using a large amount of spectrum for a single emission could do so to the detriment of simultaneous use by other stations using narrowband emission modes."

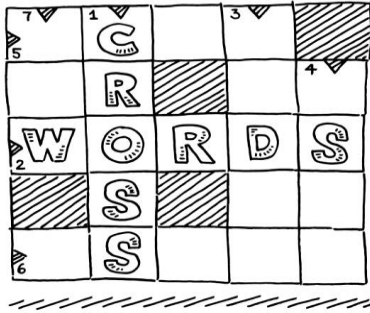
ARRL has advocated for this change for a long time. The move opens amateur data communications to faster and more modern modes and restores the incentive for amateurs to experiment with and develop faster and more efficient data methods. Previously, ARRL obtained waivers to the symbol rate rules on a case-by-case basis to facilitate communications during situations like hurricane responses. These delays will now be removed, permitting drills to be conducted with the faster modes and more timely responses when needed.

The FCC also requested comment on removing similar symbol rate restrictions in the rules governing 135.7 - 137.8 kHz (2200-meter band), 472 - 479 kHz (630-meter band), and the very high-frequency (VHF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF) bands.

The VHF bands with baud rates are the 6-meter band, 2-meter band, and the 1.25-meter band. The single UHF band with a baud rate is the 70-centimeter band (420 - 450 MHz). The [Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making](#) (FNPRM) proposes to maintain the existing bandwidth limits in the Commission's rules for these VHF and UHF bands but seeks comment on whether they should be kept, and if so, whether the bandwidths should be changed. The Commission also sought comment on whether bandwidth limits should be adopted for application to the 2200 and 630-meter bands, and if so, what an appropriate bandwidth limit would be.

Public comments on these additional issues are sought in the FNPRM. The comment period is open until January 8, 2024. Replies to comments are due no later than January 22, 2024. If changes are later adopted, the rules will go into effect in the same manner as they did for the other bands -- after notice and publication in the *Federal Register*.





## CHRIS' – CROSS !

de (KCØTKS)

I am very sorry to relate that for the immediate future there will be no puzzle activity due to dwindling numbers of participants. I wish to thank Chris, (KCØTLS) for the effort he put into crafting puzzles for us the past few months. They have been entertaining, pleasantly diverse and a contribution showcasing his creative skills. Thank you again, Chris.

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## FROM THE QTH OF DON - (KFØARQ)



Don shares this image of a D-104 mic paired with his IC-7300!

Now, THAT's a piece of futuristic history!

Every IC-7300 should be SO fortunate!

# Congratulations!

ON YOUR HONOR OF LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP IN SPARK  
RICHARD CAMIRAND (KEØQYA)



**Lifetime Membership into SPARK is something that cannot be bought...but must be bestowed with honor. It's not awarded often or lightly, but earned by those who have given much of themselves to promote Ham Radio. If you happenen to be on 2 Meters on any given morning at 5:00 or earlier...you may find Richard already out and amongst 'em almost any weekday ... already on the job and livin' the Ham life. Richard has been a tremendous ambassador for not only SPARK but for ham radio in our area for many years. He has served in various officer capacities during the years of his membership. Richard's presence at Klub events finds him always willing to go the extra mile to make SPARK great. Case in point...Richard has served as chief organizer and go-to guy for SPARKFEST since our integral event in 2021. This was a huge responsibility and for that we are endebebted and thankful. He is generous with his time, donations and wisdom as he continues to improve our Klub! Congratulations Richard, on an award well-deserved!**





## SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS (KAØJWA)



### WOS - Missouri Radio 1924

Eighty years ago, a new phenomenon called radio was revolutionizing American life. From out of nowhere, information and entertainment came right into the living room. And since many of those living rooms were in the Midwest, it was not accident that over thirty stations were located in America's heartland. Thirteen stations were in Missouri alone. One of the first was radio station WOS - "Wonders of Our State". Located in Missouri's state capitol, Jefferson City, WOS was owned and operated by the state government as a means of promoting the state and its agricultural products. Its 500-watt signal at 630 Kc covered the state and could be heard

occasionally from coast to coast. Programming was mostly no-nonsense; it included topics such as "Pest Control" and "Modern Wool Production". Programming was dull by today's standards, yet vitally important to farmers who had limited access to farm newspapers and county agricultural agents. That some farmers could not even read was likely. However, WOS took a break from farm news once a week. Every Monday night at 8 P.M., a telephone line was hooked up between the studio and the Missouri penitentiary for a live broadcast of the Missouri State Prison Band and Orchestra. For one hour, an inmate group of 29 played the latest hits. The band leader was Virgil Combs, a former corn husker who was doing a life sentence. However, the star was piano player Harry Snodgrass - also known a "King of the Ivories". Harry was serving a 3-year sentence for attempted robbery in St. Louis. Married and the father of a son, he listed his occupation before prison as a musician. However, his musical group was not named. Harry and the prison orchestra quickly became popular coast to coast, a fact which helped Harry win parole. Afterwards he went on to success on the vaudeville circuit. State records do not indicate that he ever returned to prison. That is just as well, for Harry and the orchestra would have been off the air due to budget cuts which eliminated the farm news broadcasts in 1934. For a short time, the frequency was used to dispatch state highway patrol cars. Then in 1937, a commercial venture - KWOS - went on the air. If you ever find yourself in Jefferson City, Missouri, tune your radio to 1240 A.M. You won't hear Harry Snodgrass, but you can. still hear the latest farm news. Submitted by WFRX (Jimmy Keck)



**QRT FOR NOW! de WAØQCJ es KAØJWA**



