



# S.P.A.R.K.

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

May 2025

Issue No. 40



## NEWSLETTER

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

### Co-Editors

Connie Koch  
(WA0QCJ)  
Brooks Baker  
(KA0JWA)

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Connie (WA0QCJ)

#### Word From Our President

Bret (W0VK)

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## EDITOR'S MOMENT

### Who'Zit

### Tech Talk

### Signing Off

Connie Koch

(WA0QCJ)



**“Well, did you hear all that cacklin’ goin’ on during the 2-Meter Nets last month?” “ I never heard such a lot of ‘hen talk’ amongst’ our YLs and XYLs! “ They ran those Sunday night nets like they OWNED ‘em! Lori (KF0IHX), Renda (KB0UVW), Marcia (KF0HYP) and Connie (WA0QCJ) brought their ‘A’ games and did indeed, run the first full consecutive month of female HAM operation on the SPARK Sunday Night Net. May it not be the last time...That was a lot of fun!**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



**Greetings Fellow Operators!**

**As we step into the month of May, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible sense of community we have that binds us together as Ham Radio enthusiasts. So, if you're a seasoned operator, newly licensed operator, or you are studying to become an operator, then come to our meetings. There is so much to learn and so many good folks to hang out with, you are sure to enjoy your time with us!**

**This month, I encourage everyone to take a few moments to connect with newer operators. Whether it's helping someone with their first contact or offering advice on gear setup, mentorship is one of the cornerstones of our club here in Sedalia.**

**As the weather is getting warmer please take advantage of one of our many events we do. For instance at the meeting on May 3rd we will be discussing our next Parks on the Air event and location. We will also be discussing the Fox Hunt transmitters we have and how we will be putting them to use very soon.**

**See you May 3rd !!! I hope to see you all there and hope to hear many familiar voices and welcome some new ones too on the repeater until then. Let's keep building our skills, our friendships, and our service to the community.**

**73! Bret (W0VK)**

## **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 (K0ETL)**

**Simplex Net – Wednesday at 8 PM – 147.575 operator Paul (K0ETL)**

**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 2025

de – Brooks (KA0JWA)

**NO, WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU! NEW POSTINGS FOR  
2025 ARE NOT AVAILABLE YET. STAY TUNED!**

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**NEXT MEETING – May 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:30 AM  
Pettis County EOC  
1511 N. Ohio**

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## May Birthdays

Joel Klonowski – 6<sup>th</sup> (KE0WJX)

Leo Stuart – 6<sup>th</sup> (KF0IHY)

Renda Jackson – 17<sup>th</sup> (KB0UVW)

David Marsh – 30<sup>th</sup> (W1OTW)



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## HUGE THANKS TO BRIAN MAY

**(WE3MAY)** For his generous donation of a 100 watt ICOM unit for the communications trailer with a full range of surrounding repeater frequencies installed. We are ALWAYS happy when Brian comes back home to be with us...his FOREVER Ham Radio family!



## WHO-ZIT?

I was born in the small town of Ironton, Missouri.

Grew up on a cattle farm on the head waters of the Black River, between Elephant Rocks State Park, and Johnson Shut Ins State Park.

When not in school or doing farm chores I was wading the Black River in search of the fun and exciting Small Mouth Bass. This led to a lifelong passion for fishing, having fished in 11 different states and 3 different countries.

I have had an artificial right knee since I was 17 years old.

My first job away from the farm was working the “South end of a North bound sawmill”,...meaning I was the guy that had to stack every single board that came off the end of the conveyor.

I was a tournament archer and have won several local 3D tournaments and placed in the top10 in the state tournament 2 separate times.

I had 2 black bear cubs climb a tree I was sitting in while bow hunting bear in Canada. (Mama bear was on the ground below me!)

I went to college later in life having received a BS in Business Management at the age of30.

I have ridden the entire Ozark Trail on horseback (over 300 miles).

**WHO AM I?**

**Contact: (WA0QCJ) with your guess**

connies1.newsletters@gmail.com



PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR YOUR EDITOR. WHEN SENDING E-MAIL MESSAGES, ARTICLES, OR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE, USE THE FOLLOWING E-ADDRESS FOR CONNIE (WA0QCJ). TEXTING IS STILL AN OPEN OPTION.

[connies1.newsletters@gmail.com](mailto:connies1.newsletters@gmail.com)

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## NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS NEWS UPDATE

de – Ryan Anderson (KFØHYP)

Marshall – Saline County ARES Club Events:

Every Monday @ 7:30 PM – 2-Meter Repeater Net – 147.165MHz w/ positive offset and tone 127.3

2nd Tuesday @ 6:00 PM - Club Meeting

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TO OUR NEW TECHNICIAN!



LARRY CLOUD -CALL NOT AVAILABLE



## **GUEST EDITORIAL – PHILLIP MARKMAN (KJ5ZW)**

**Phillip is a former member of our founding club CMARC and we welcome his editorial from present QTH – Hawkins, Texas**

**“Forget the net.  
Switch on the set.  
Warm it up slow and go.  
Light the tubes, bask in the glow.  
Surf shortwaves on your old radio.”**

**- Author unknown -**

**I’ve utilized this unknown Author before, especially this quote. It suggests tube radio technology to which, I had a radio broadcast receiver on my desk as a youngster. Mine was a Hallicrafter with 7 shortwave bands plus a Broadcast AM band. I enjoyed it while “attempting” to do homework for school.**

**This month, I am researching Baluns and their purpose, function, and what they attempt to do, as well as what they actually do.**

**Last year I did an article on Baluns however, in my mind, that article was incomplete. That is to say, the article should have had a more in depth study & explanation. So, ... I’m revisiting baluns and plan on providing a better “bit of knowledge” on the subject?**

**You, the reader, can be the judge.**

**Which balun ratio do you want to use? 4:1, 6:1, 9:1, or 1:1**

**OCF = 4:1 OCF dipole configuration whether inverted Vee or flat top at 30 to 35 feet up (mine is 33 feet up.)**

**The same OCF antenna wire that is 50 or 60 feet away from Terra Firma would need a 6:1 balun.**

200 / 50 ohms = 4:1 Off Center Fed

300 / 50 ohms = 6:1

450 / 50 ohms = 9:1 End fed, (similar to a sloper)

random long wire (end feed?) will be a 49:1

By listing the ratios and impedance of each, perhaps this will help, even if it "Only Helps Me" to understand the balun and its use.

First example is 200 Ohms impedance for an OCF wire. Note, when you measure the antenna wire and find it is closer to 300 Ohms, you know why I also listed the 6:1 radio balun. Please understanding the wire antenna is effected by the Terra Firma below the wire, moisture in the soil, kind of soil and what is close to the wire, diameter (Gauge) of the wire, as well as "solid wire" or "multi-strand wire" and whatever is in close proximity to "said antenna wire."

Here is another item to think about. With a Half-wave dipole fed in the center of the wire, the would be antenna will approach 75 Ohms in an open area and drop to between 30 and 50 Ohms in a tree clustered area.

Hints, the reason for the 1:1 balun for a center fed half-wave or full-wave antenna wire. The 1:1 balun will be 50 Ohms on the *radio* (coax) *side* only when the wire *antenna side* of the balun is 50 Ohms.

(Feedline input to antenna output match of 50 Ohms)

The other baluns I have listed *actually do impedance matching*. Remember this, your just trying to install a balun to receive a 50 Ohm match to the Radio transmitter.

Don't know if this article helps or creates confusion. If I have helped the reader to understand the balun, Great. If confusion, then you may do well to contact: Paul KD0ETL or Chris KC0TKS or Bret W0VK.

Until next time,

KJ5ZW Phillip

[kj5zw@QSL.net](mailto:kj5zw@QSL.net)

# BE THE FIRST TO OWN THIS ACTION FIGURE!!!

Name: Carl "QRMaster" Jenkins

Call Sign: KN0WITALL

Specialty: Spreading questionable ham radio advice on Facebook groups

Carl Jenkins was once an average guy with a passion for microwaved burritos and late-night infomercials. That all changed the day he passed his Technician Class ham radio exam—on the third try. Overnight, Carl transformed into what he proudly calls a “licensed radio communication specialist.” Everyone else just calls him “that guy.”

Armed with a Baofeng walkie-talkie he bought f eBay for \$18.99, Carl now patrols local repeaters with the confidence of a military comms officer—despite having never transmitted more than 3 miles. He’s convinced that “I don’t need Morse Code” and wears his “No CW” t-shirt as a badge of honor, even though he thinks CW stands for “Cable Wiring.”

Carl’s Facebook presence is legendary. He jumps into every thread, uninvited, to share half-remembered facts, outdated advice, and conspiracy theories about antenna gain. He’s written three blog posts on how to “mod your Baofeng for 10,000 watts” (none of which actually work).

## Catchphrases:

“Trust me, I’ve had my license for two whole months.”

“That’s not how I do it, and I’ve never had a problem!”

“Real operators use VHF simplex in Walmart parking lots.”

Despite his flawed expertise, Carl’s enthusiasm is infectious. Whether you love him or mute him, The New Ham Expert is always on the air—literally and figuratively.

## Special Powers:

Facebook Expert Mode – Posts 12 replies per hour, none sourced

Baofeng Blast – Shouts into the mic while holding it 3 inches from his mouth to “improve modulation.”

Antenna Argument Aura – Causes immediate flame wars when he enters a thread.

Logic Shield – Immune to facts, feedback, and Elmer corrections

## Collect all characters in the Ham Hero series!

The Real Elmer (comes with patience and Advil)





Silent Key Samurai (says nothing, hears all)

Digital Diva (lives on FT8 and flexes signal reports)

WARNING:

This figure may cause excessive eye-rolling and mild QRZ rage. Not responsible for repeater timeouts.

FCC COMPLIANCE NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission Regulation 73.42069(b)

WARNING:

This action figure emits unsolicited advice on VHF/UHF frequencies and may interfere with constructive conversations. Use of this figure near actual ham radio operators may result in:

Repeater lockouts

Sudden urges to throw your license in the trash

Irreversible face palming (an expression of disbelief, shame, or exasperation)

Net control ghosting

This device is NOT approved for Part 97 operation under actual knowledge, skill, or common sense. Operating within close proximity of a Carl Jenkins figure may cause nearby Elmers to spontaneously combust.

NOT CERTIFIED FOR:

Digital modes

HF bands

Any actual understanding of Standing Wave Ratio (SWR)

HANDLE WITH CAUTION

Contains small parts and large opinions.

**DISCLAIMER: ABSOLUTELY NOT TO BE CONFUSED  
WITH ANY NEWLY LICENSED, PAST OR PRESENT MEMBER  
OF SPARK!**

**...BUT IT IS KINDA' FUN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE OUT  
THERE WHO AREN'T THE COOL OPERATORS THAT WE ARE!  
HI HI**

# WAY TO GO

**These members received recognition for their participation in the February 10-Contact Challenge!**



**FEBRUARY 2025**



**Paul - (KD0ETL)**



**Don - (KF0ARQ)**



**Steve - KE0CYW)**



**Connie - (WA0QCJ)**



**Leo - (KF0IHY)**

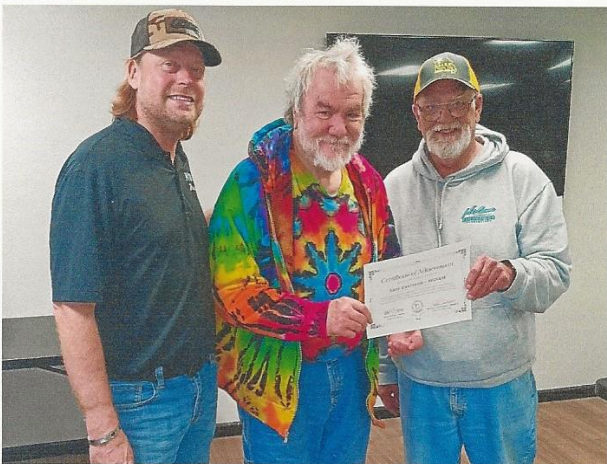




Lori - (KF0IHX)



Mark - (N0OWZ)



Sam - (W2SAM)



Richard - (KE0QYA)



Renda - (KB0UVW)





## **SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS- (KA0JWA)**



**Hey! Did you notice our new SPARK LOGO in the heading of the Newsletter? It was designed by Daren (KD0OPS), Renda (KB0UVW), and Mark, (N0OWZ)! This is the official emblem for our 90<sup>th</sup> SPARK ANNIVERSARY!**

**Great Graphic to show off a Great Klub!**

**Take a moment to express your THANKS!**

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**QRT FOR NOW! de WAØQCJ es KAØJWA**



