



S.P.A.R.K.

November 2025

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

Issue No. 46



NEWSLETTER

Co-Editors

Connie Koch

(WAØQCJ)

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(KAØJWA)

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EDITOR'S MOMENT

I recently had a visit with an administrator of Mo-Kan Regional Council regarding the Outstanding Eagle Award received by our Prez', Bret, WØVK, at SPARK-CON. I was ONLY inquiring about information concerning the award...it ended up being a 20 - minute conversation with the administrator extolling enthusiastic praise upon our guy, Bret! If SPARK ever questioned the successful outcome of SPARK-CON, we needn't have. MO-KAN LOVED IT...HAM RADIO LOVED IT! We will probably never know how much footwork Bret put into the Convention...the meetings, the logistical arrangements, the telephone calls, the sleepless nights...and there were some! But SPARK knows what Bret is made of and we could expect no more from him than what he gave...and he gave it ALL! Bret...BIG THANKS from all of us! de - WAØQCJ

MO-KAN REGIONAL COUNCIL HONORS

BRET KUNZ - WØVK



Mo-Kan Regional Council Awards

The Awards Program of the Mo-Kan Regional Council

A Bit of History about the Mo-Kan Awards:

During the Spring of 2012, an independent effort to recognize the work of W0AIB - Larry Staples of Larry's List was initiated with the coordination and input from as many of the of the Amateur Radio Clubs from the Kansas City

region that could be found. While this effort was an outstanding success, a good deal of effort was expended to simply locate the various points of contact, and to collect the funds needed for the award. Recognizing the need for a Regional Organization, not simply for awards and recognition, but to include many other topics of interest to the Amateur Radio Community was the beginning of organizing the Mo-Kan Regional Council of Amateur Radio Organizations!

Initially, the award included a framed certificate, and a trophy depicting and American Bald Eagle in flight, thus the award gaining the name of the *Eagle Award*. A couple of years later, Larry Staples, (the one time Committee Chair of the Mo-Kan Regional Council's Awards and Recognition Committee,) pointed out that a more appropriate trophy might consist of an Astatic D-104 Silver Eagle Microphone, thus more accurately capturing part of Amateur Radio, while maintaining the "Eagle" in the award. The wood base for these beautiful awards has been created by the talented David Albright – KE0DSV of Kansas City.

The criteria for the Eagle Awards has been to recognize the significant efforts and success of individuals from the Kansas City Region who have accomplished great work or outstanding service to the Amateur Radio Community of the Region which would be considered above and beyond normal expectations.



2025 Eagle Award #8

WØVK Bret M. Kuhns, In Recognition of the revitalization and continuation of the Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Klub (S.P.A.R.K.) and the Organization and Management of the 2025 ARRL Division Convention, SPARK-CON.

Mo-Kan Regional Council Awards

The Awards Program of the Mo-Kan Regional Council



The Eighth Mo-Kan Regional Council Eagle Award was presented to **Bret M. Kuhns, W0VK** on October 11, 2025 at the 2025 ARRL Midwest Division Convention, known as **SPARK-CON** in Sedalia, Missouri.

The Trophy Plaque reads:

In recognition of outstanding effort and meritorious service toward the Art and Science of Amateur Radio which has brought credit and success to the Amateur Radio Community in the Kansas City Region.

The Citation on the Certificate reads:

"For extensive effort and dedication in the revitalization and continuation of the Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Klub (S.P.A.R.K.) through excellent leadership by going above and beyond to unite the Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Community through the continuous planning and execution of activities and events of mutual interest, and for leading S.P.A.R.K. and its members in accepting the enormous undertaking of organizing the 2025 ARRL Division Convention, SPARK-CON, within our region."



The Eighth Mo-Kan Regional Council of Amateur Radio Organizations Eagle Award and Certificate is presented to **W0VK - Bret M. Kuhns** by Council Chairman, W0ICQ - Randy Schulze at Spark-Con, the ARRL Midwest Division Convention in Sedalia, Missouri on October 11, 2025.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Fellow Members of the Sedalia-Pettis
Amateur Radio Klub!

What an incredible month October turned out to be! Our club had the honor of hosting the ARRL Midwest Division Convention right here in Sedalia, Missouri, and I'm proud to say it was an overwhelming success!

The positive feedback has really been great to hear from across the region, and it's clear that our members were the heart of what made this event so special. From setup to hospitality, every volunteer

effort truly shined. The way our club came together to represent Sedalia and Amateur Radio at its finest did not go unnoticed!

I want to personally thank each and every one of you who showed up, dedicated your time, energy, and expertise to make the convention run so smoothly. I NOTICED YOU! Your hard work, teamwork, and enthusiasm left a lasting impression on everyone who attended.

Looking ahead, we're already thinking about next year — and with the continued support of our fellow clubs in the four-state division, I'm confident we can make it even bigger and better!

Thank you once again for your commitment, passion, and pride in our club. You've truly shown the Midwest Division what the Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Club is all about!

73,
Bret Kuhns (WØVK)



EMA TRAINING CLASS – NOVEMBER 6TH

'DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AFTER SEVERE WIND OR TORNADO EVENT'

6:00 PM - EOC BUILDING -NOT TO BE MISSED!



TURKEY TROT! NOVEMBER 27TH **DETAILS NOVEMBER MEETING!**

NEXT MEETING – November 1st- 8:30 AM
Pettis County EOC -- 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)

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 2025 **de – Brooks (KAØJWA)**

11/08/2025 - Nixa ARC Hamfest

Location: Nixa, MO



November Birthdays!

Marci Withers 14 – - (KFØHYQ)

Melissa Marsh – 15th – (KFØMEE)

David Roberts – 30th - (WØDR)



NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS NEWS UPDATE

de – Ryan Anderson (KFØHYP)

Marshall – Saline County ARES Club Events:

Every Monday @ 7:30 PM – 2-Meter Repeater Net – 146.685 - Negative offset - Input and Output tone of 127.3 **UPDATED REPEATER INFORMATION**

2nd Tuesday @ 6:00 PM – Club Meeting

WHEN SENDING E-MAIL MESSAGES, ARTICLES, OR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE, USE THE FOLLOWING E-ADDRESS FOR CONNIE (WAØQCJ). TEXTING IS STILL AN OPEN OPTION.

connies1.newsletters@gmail.com

WHO-ZIT?



I grew up in a good home, with great parents. My dad worked at Boeing and my mom owned a beauty shop. I was raised with two brothers, and older and a twin...my poor mother! I spent my summers either in Canada to visit my grandma or locally out on my great aunt's farm

exploring through the woods and floating the Meramec River. I've been the manager of a photo lab...you should see some of the things people will take a picture of! I've travelled the world to places like Dublin, Rome, Christchurch, and even McMurdo, to name a few! As of 2012, I am one of three Americans among several hundred international guests, with my name engraved on a big golden plaque above the bar at a place named 'The Bog' in Christchurch for having drunk 100 pints of Guinness beer! I tried, but after 18, I ended up having to pay \$300 cleaning fee to the taxi driver! I am proud to now be nearly 6 years sober, as well as cigarette and social media free!

WHO AM I ?

Contact: (WAØQCJ) with your guess!

connies1.newsletters@gmail.com

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS !!!



**VETERANS! BE SURE TO ATTEND THE
NOVEMBER MEETING TO RECEIVE A GIFT AND
OUR GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SERVICE.**

NOT TO BE MISSED!!!



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

This month Phillip shares an informative article from the National Amateur Radio Alliance which pays homage to one of the founding purposes of our hobby...enjoying making contacts and responding to those with whom we QSO! It's about supporting new operators and empowering them to use the airways and operate their stations with confidence. It's a good 'back to the basics' review to refresh our own operating practices.

Makes you remember why you became a Ham in the first place!

SIDE NOTE: NARA was represented at SPARK-CON! Hope you had a chance to visit with them!



NATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE

Friends & Fellow Operators,

You're invited to join clubs across the country and **get on the air for the newest operating event of the year — Club Week!**

Club Week Nov 1-8

The **National Amateur Radio Alliance (NARA)** is proud to introduce **Club Week**. Running November **1–8, 2025**, Club Week is all about making contacts, having great conversations, and helping new operators feel more confident on the air.

While the primary goal is to **contact other clubs and exchange QSL cards**, this uniquely designed on-the-air event serves many additional purposes.

- Encourages real conversations between operators
- Provides opportunities to operate in public and engage with the community
- Helps new hams overcome mic fright and build confidence.
- Promotes activity across all bands and modes
- Introduces new and Technician-class operators to the excitement of HF

Unlike a contest, **Club Week isn't about points or logs** — it's about participation, connection, and fun. Clubs can operate from their shack, a member's home, a park, or any public location. It's a relaxed, friendly event focused on making contacts, getting to know other clubs and sharing the spirit of amateur radio.

Participants are encouraged to **send and respond to QSL cards**, offering a great way to engage new operators and keep the tradition alive.



About the National Amateur Radio Alliance

The **National Amateur Radio Alliance (NARA)** is a national nonprofit membership association dedicated to empowering hams, supporting clubs, and promoting the growth of amateur radio. Whether you're just getting licensed or have been active for decades, we're here to support your journey.

As a national association built for today's ham radio community, NARA focuses on four key areas: **resources, engagement, outreach, and advocacy.**

NARA is a forward-thinking organization committed to the growth and sustainability of amateur radio. We develop initiatives that foster engagement, build community, promote learning, and support public outreach opportunities. Through strategic partnerships and innovative approaches, we are expanding amateur radio's reach into new communities, ensuring the hobby remains vibrant and relevant for generations to come.

Join Us On The Air

We invite your club to take part in **Club Week** and help make the bands come alive! Celebrate what makes your club unique, engage your community, and join hams nationwide in this exciting new event.

After the event, we encourage clubs to **submit a post-event summary and photos** through our website so we can feature your activities and share your story with the broader amateur radio community. to learn more about week check out <https://usnara.org/club-week.php>

73,

Mikel Turner, W4OPS
President
National Amateur Radio Alliance
800-489-6093
cq@usnara.org
www.usnara.org

WE CAME, WE SAW, WE CONQUERED!



ARRL MIDWEST DIVISION 2025 CONVENTION

SEDALIA PETTIS AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

S.P.A.R.K.-CON



Event Highlights:

Vendor & Exhibitors - Explore the latest in amateur radio gear and technology.

- Tailgating (Swap Meet) - Buy, sell, and trade equipment.
- Full Seminar Schedule - Learn from expert speakers.
- License Testing - Get your amateur radio license or upgrade.
- DXCC Card Checking - Validate your DX contacts.
- Over \$10,000 in Prizes - Including hourly door prizes!
- Emergency Preparedness - Hands-on demos and discussions.
- Near Space Balloon Launch - A thrilling high-altitude experiment.
- Transmitter Hunt & Antenna Clinic - Test your skills in direction-finding.
- On-Site RV Camping & Hospitality Area - Stay and enjoy the weekend.
- Hamfest Dinner - Friday Night from 6:00 - 8:00 PM.
- Grand Prize Drawing - Saturday at 5:00 PM (not present to win)
- Youth STEM Presentation and Seminars
- For other convention information, see QR Code

Hotel Booking: Hotel Bothwell (660-826-5588), Best Western (660-826-6100), Holiday Inn Express (660-826-4000) have blocks of rooms for this event ask for the Spark-Con block when making reservations

Missouri State Fair Camping: Full hookups (660-530-5600)

Location:

Missouri State Fair Grounds

2503 W. 16th St. Sedalia, MO 65301

Date: 10/10/2025 & 10/11/2025

HAMFEST / Seminars / Convention

All Run Through Times Below:

12:00PM to 5:00PM Friday

8:00AM to 5:00PM Saturday

Admission Fee: \$10

Talk-in: 147.030 -OFFSET, PL 179.9

SPARK-CON.ORG

Contacts:

Bret Kuhns, WØVK

660-281-6506

w0vk@arrl.net

Richard, Camirand,

KE0QYA@yahoo.com

More information:

www.wa0sdo.org

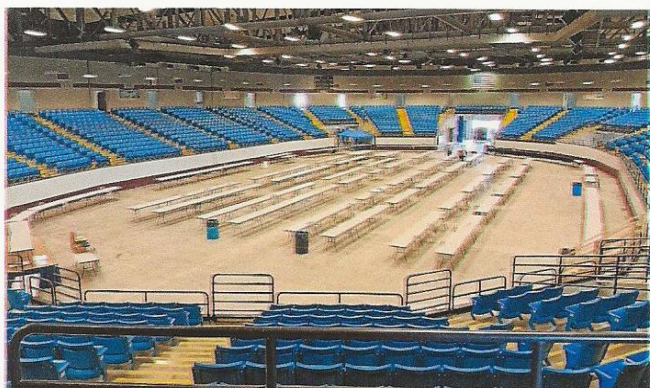


FACEBOOK WEB PAGE



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

AND IT BEGINS...



SPARK to host ARRL Midwest Division Convention

By Chris Howell

chris.howell@
sedaliademocrat.com

The American Radio Relay League Midwest Division Convention, SPARK-CON, will be held Friday, Oct. 10, and Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Lowell Mohler Assembly Hall on the Missouri State Fairgrounds.

Bret Kuhns is a local ham operator with SPARK, the Sedalia Petis Amateur Radio Klub, and has helped grow the local group's annual radio day event into a regional convention.

"We've had hamfests the last four years here in Sedalia," Kuhns said. "However, we have now been selected to have a convention based on the success we've had with

our smaller hamfests."

Kuhns has been at the Mathewson Convention Center this week, setting up dozens of tables for this weekend's visitors. Operators will sharpen their radio skills by making verified contact 'handshakes' with fellow hams across the globe.

"This is a four-state convention with Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas," Kuhns said. "We have an estimated turnout of 1,000 to 1,500 people. The majority of our attendees will be ham radio operators."

The event is about education and sharing knowledge, and will have forums, ham radio displays and people trading and purchasing amateur radio gear.

Early birds on Satur-

day will get a special treat and witness a science experiment with a radio-communications twist.

"We're going to launch a high-altitude balloon Saturday morning at 8:30," Kuhns said. "It will go near outer space, and then we're going to retrieve it. It has transponders on it so we can track it."

SPARK is launching the balloon in coordination with the Civil Air Patrol and the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

"We're going to have emergency communication trailers from the surrounding area on display," Kuhns said. "And we're going to be operating a special event on high frequen-

cy worldwide."

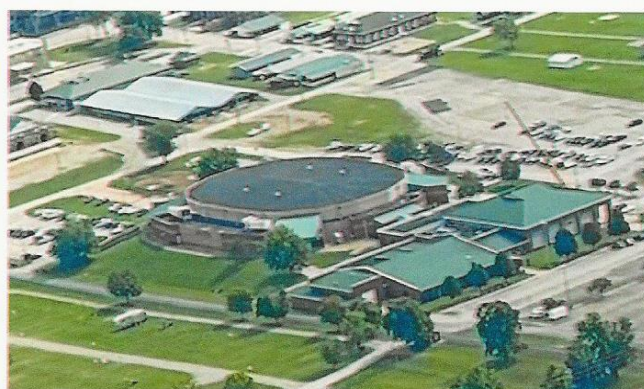
An airplane will also be circling the area to give local hams a different radio contact to make.

"We're also going to have an airplane circling in the area so folks can make air-mobile contacts," Kuhns said. "Talk with the airplane as it's flying over and they will be issued certificates on-site for contact with an airplane."

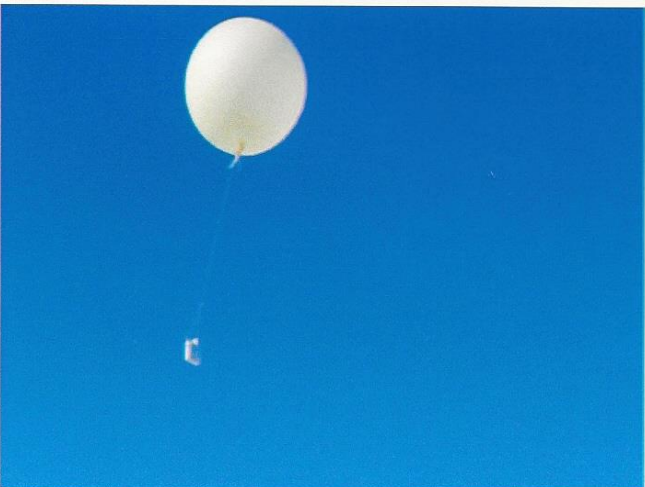
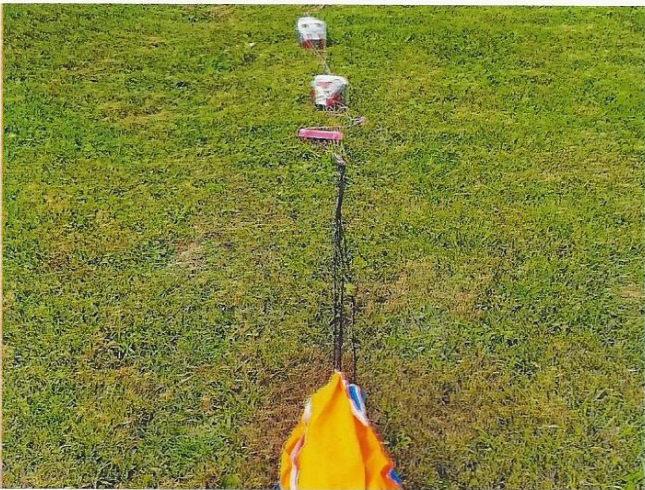
The ARRL Midwest Division Convention is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission will be \$10 per person.

For more information, visit www.spark-con.org or spark-con on Facebook.

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.



HIGH ALTITUDE BALLOON LAUNCH





Members of the Civil Air Patrol's Sedalia Cadet Squadron launched a high-altitude balloon Saturday, Oct. 11, as part of the ARRL Midwest Division Convention on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. Dense fog delayed the flight tracked by ham radio operators.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

Ham radio operators track high-altitude balloon from State Fairgrounds

By Chris Howell

chris.howell@sedaliademocrat.com

The Amateur Radio Relay League Midwest Division Convention, SPARK-CON, kept Missouri State Fairgrounds busy on Saturday, Oct. 11.

"We've got five emergency trailers up here in Lowell Mohler Hall," Bret Kuhns with SPARK, Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub said. "If you look at this forum schedule, we've got a lot of free education on all kinds of cool ham radio related stuff, and we've got

a balloon launch that's going to go as soon as the sun burns off this fog."

The morning's thick fog made even driving to the venue problematic, and the soaked-in conditions pushed the scheduled 8:30 a.m. balloon launch back a few hours.

"The Civil Air Patrol is here, and Missouri S&T through the University of Missouri are here and they're coordinating that launch," Kuhns said. "That's going to happen just south of the main entrance outside."

Jeff Kesterson, a long-time member

of SPARK, manned the emergency communications trailer alongside other trailers from across the Midwest.

"This is our emergency communications trailer which is equipped with all different kinds of radios," Kesterson said. "People contact me that don't know their way here and I'm helping them. They could all use their GPS, but it's kind of nice to have a friendly voice say, 'well you're in the corner of the fairgrounds go here, go to this gate.'"

See **SPARK**, Page A5

SPARK

Continued from Page A1

Kesterson was aware of the nearby balloon launch and was following its progress.

"It's a balloon that's being launched with a transmitter on it so it's able to be tracked," Kesterson said. "It just drifts and when it gets to a certain altitude it bursts. It is supposed to land somewhere down by Rolla later today, the radio transmitters will lead them to it, they use directional antennas to find and triangulate on it."

From an area in the parking lot marked off with caution tape, several workers prepared the balloons payload to be lifted aloft.

Civil Air Patrol Commander Jason Unwin worked as the coordinator for the balloon launch, setting up the coordination with the FAA, the radio club and assembling the necessary equipment.

"I had done this in Texas, and I was talking to the radio club as part of their SPARK-CON event, and I thought 'why not do a high-altitude balloon launch,'" Unwin said. "It's taken months to coordinate with the FAA then learning and finding companies that make the balloons and he-

lium. Many thanks to Missouri S&T for getting us a good deal on the on the helium because helium is the most expensive part of this whole procedure."

Yezad Anklesaria from the Aerospace Engineering Department at Missouri S&T slowly released helium from two large tanks and weighed the balloon's buoyancy with a hand-held scale.

The lighter than air gas for the flight costs around \$1,000 and once inflated to a positive buoyancy, fills the balloon measured around 15 x 15 feet.

Dangling from a rope were a series of foam containers with electronic transponders inside.

"We're putting in hand-warmers because it's going to get colder like a hundred or more below 0," communications officer TJ Porter said. "This one right here is through APRS which is a part of the amateur radio service. Periodically this will transmit out its coordinates and there are ham radio stations across the country that are listening for this thing to broadcast."

Only one amateur radio station must hear it ping and the coordinates will get uploaded to



Civil Air Patrol Commander Jason Unwin and CAP members ready a payload of radio transponders for a balloon ride to 100,000 feet. Temps of -100 degrees necessitate hand-warmers to keep radio gear from freezing. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

the internet for anyone to find.

The balloon was scheduled to float up to 100,000 feet before the lack of air pressure causes the balloon to expand to the point of bursting, sending it plummeting to earth slowed only by a small chute.

Anklesaria attached another beacon to help trackers find the balloon if it were to land in a remote location.

"It's a sport device, it's a commercially available device for

lost hikers," Anklesaria said. "A beacon basically that it physically sends a GPS signal to the satellite which is then uploaded to a server that you can retrieve it from anywhere in the world."

Unwin said the balloon is mostly for ham operators to gain experience tracking a floating object, but it does carry a special payload as well.

"The cadets put together some experiments of things that they wanted to test out and we have

that in there, that way they can experiment and experience the atmospheric conditions because there's a lot lower pressure and obviously it's -90 Celsius, so they'll experience that," Unwin said.

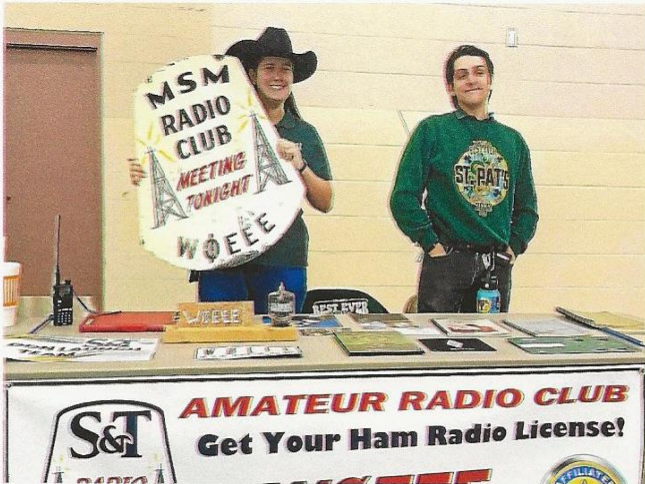
An additional fox transponder transmitted a tone so searchers could use directional equipment to triangulate location and may listen as well.

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.



SPARK HISTORY
IN
THE MAKING!

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TRAILERS

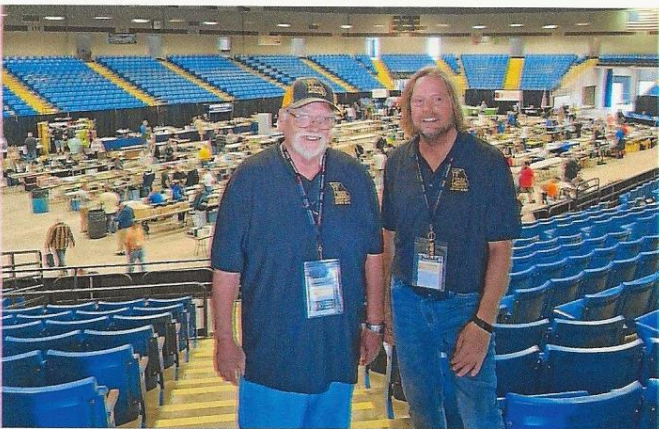
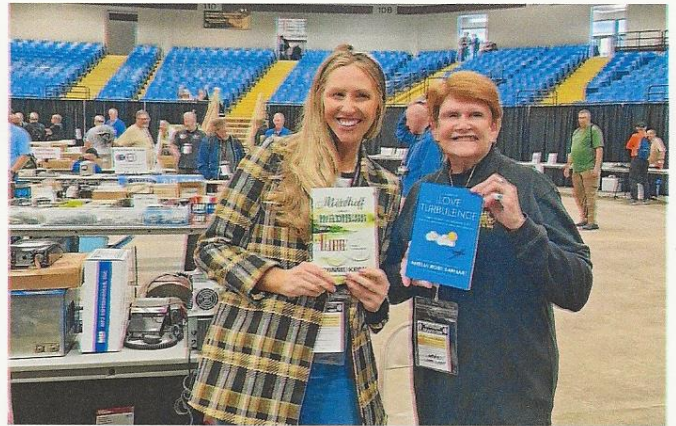


EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TRAILERS

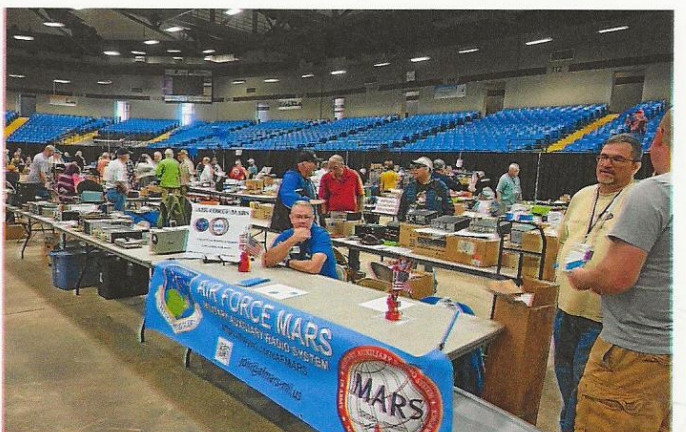
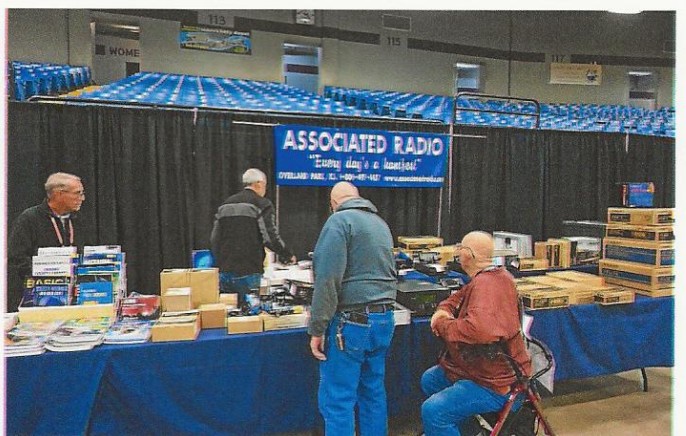
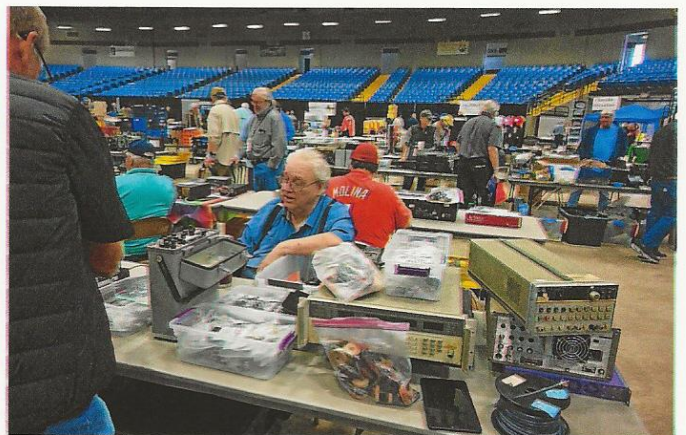
DAVID MARSH (W1OTW) AT COMMUNICATIONS CENTRAL



ON THE CONVENTION FLOOR

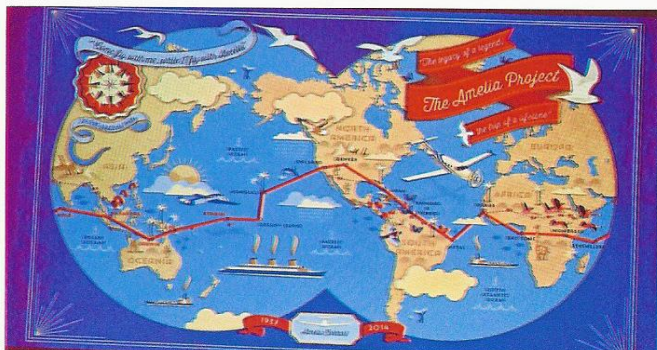
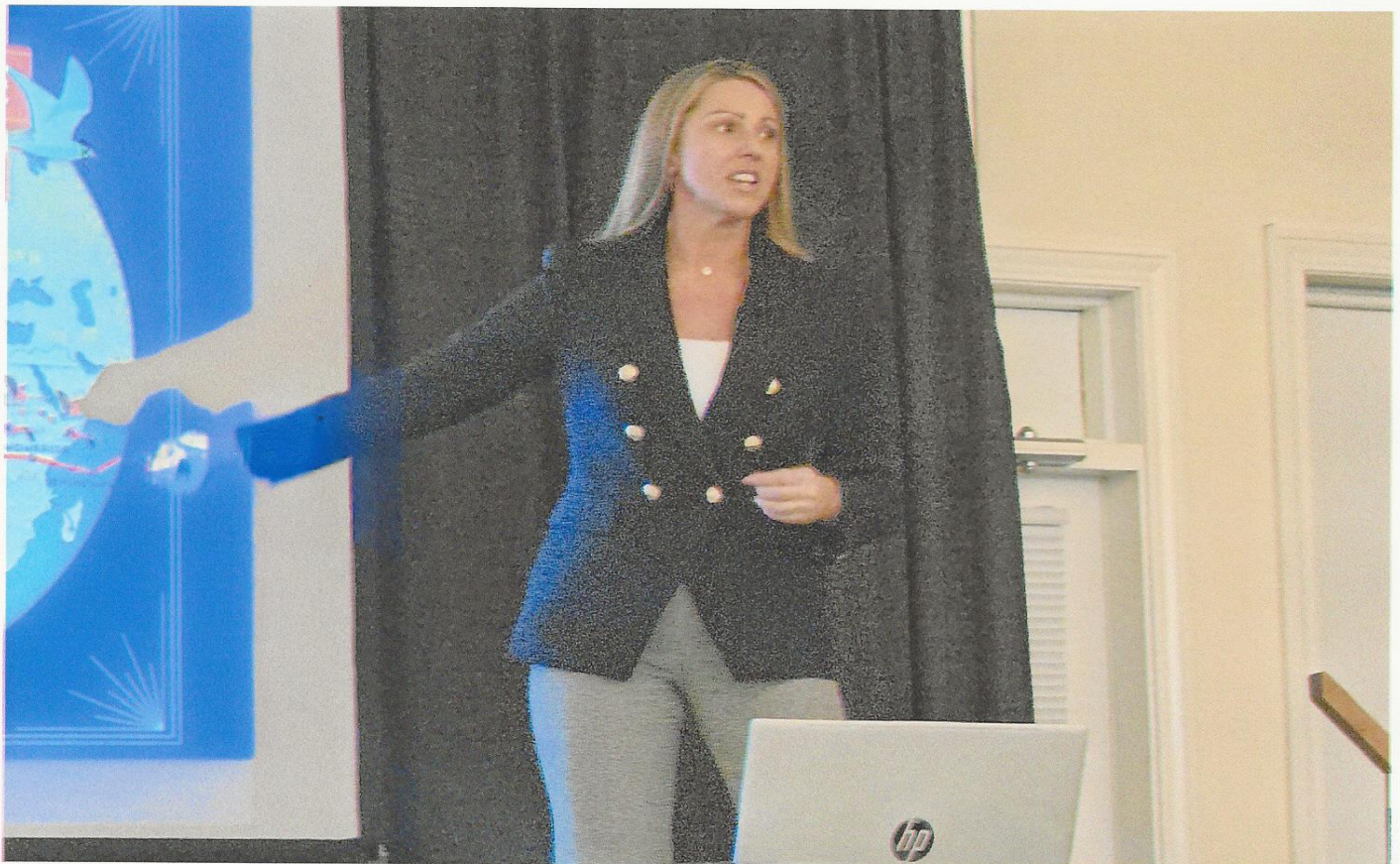
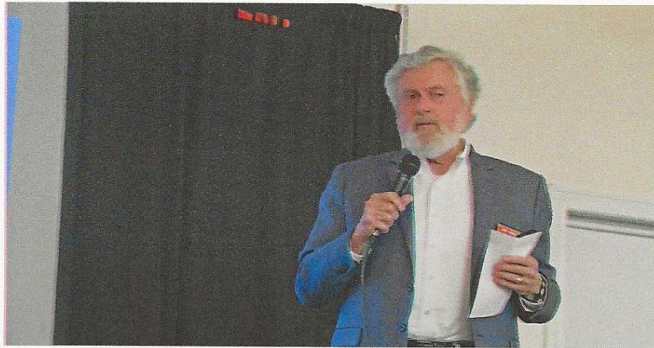


EXHIBITORS AND ATTENDANCE OVERWHELMING!



BANQUET WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER

AMELIA ROSE EARHART



WE'LL SEE 'YA NEXT YEAR AT SPARK-CON 2026!



SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS (KAØJWA)



What more can be said but that SPARK did indeed light a fire that won't be quenched! SPARK-CON is more than a memory. It is looking toward our future which from this year onward will always be more than just a Ham Fest. We have set the bar high for ourselves and with leadership and membership such as ours we have shown what we're made of. Congratulate yourselves on a successful mission completed with professionalism and finesse.

Just a note of THANKS THIS BIG from your editor, 'QCJ, who is indebted to SO MANY for your contributions to this special SPARK-CON edition of your newsletter. Over 400 photos were submitted and every one was viewed and considered for inclusion. It has been a joy to document this stellar occasion for the SPARK membership and may we go down in history as hosting one of the best ARRL Regional Conventions ever!



QRT FOR NOW! de WAØQCJ es KAØJWA

SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS

(KAØJWA)



QRT FOR NOW! de WAØQCJ es KAØJWA