



# S.P.A.R.K.

December 2025

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

Issue No. 47



## NEWSLETTER

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

Co-Editors

Connie Koch

(WAØQCJ)

Brooks Baker

(KAØJWA)

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Connie (WAØQCJ)

Word From Our President

Bret (WØVK)

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## EDITOR'S MOMENT

**MAY YOUR QSOs BE MANY, MERRY, AND BRIGHT !!! de (WAØQCJ)**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



SPARK Club Members,

As we close out 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on what an extraordinary year it has been for the Sedalia–Pettis Amateur Radio Club. Together, we accomplished more than ever before, and each achievement speaks to the dedication, camaraderie, and enthusiasm that make this club truly exceptional.

Our monthly Parks on the Air outings strengthened not only our operating skills but also our sense of team spirit, I mean how about that POTA event where Jesse James robbed a train? So fun! Field Day was another shining example of what we can accomplish when we work side by side, showcasing our preparedness and passion for the hobby. Our Scott Joplin Special Event Station drew fantastic participation and highlighted our club on a broader stage celebrating Ragtime music. Week after week, our nets continued to thrive, thanks to the consistent engagement of our operators. And of course, SPARK-CON 2025 was a tremendous success, an event that demonstrated what happens when a committed membership pulls together with purpose and pride.

Every one of you contributed to turning a good club into a great one. I couldn't be prouder of what we've built together.

As we look ahead, I encourage each member to recruit, recruit, recruit! Strengthening our membership base ensures the continued health, vitality, and longevity of our club. And as a quick but important reminder, please renew your membership for 2026. Keeping your membership current ensures you don't miss out on club information, activities, and benefits.

It has been an honor, and truly one of the highlights of my time in amateur radioto serve as your president during such an iconic year. Thank you for your trust, your energy, and your unwavering dedication to the Sedalia–Pettis Amateur Radio Club.

You all are amazing! Here's to an even brighter 2026!

73,

Bret Kuhns W0VK

President, Sedalia-Pettis ARC



**NEXT MEETING – December 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM**

**Pettis County EOC --- 1511 N. Ohio**

**OUR LATE-START MEETING WILL BE FOLLOWED  
BY A MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON AT THE EOC!**

### **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)**

**2026 HAMFEST dates will be posted as available after the New Year**

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## **December Birthdays!**

Mark Nye 6<sup>th</sup> – (KØNYE)

Richard Camirand – 18<sup>th</sup> – (KEØQYA)

Connie Koch - 29<sup>th</sup> - (WAØQCJ)

Don Weldon – 31<sup>st</sup> – (KFØARQ)



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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 – 146.685 - Negative offset- Input and Output tone of 127.3 **UPDATED REPEATER INFORMATION**

2nd Tuesday @ 6:00 PM – Club Meeting

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

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## **WHO-ZIT?**

**I prefer to work 75 and 20 Meters SSB and CW and enjoy supporting Special Event stations. Historically my native homeland is Finland. My hobbies include Ham Radio, woodworking, winter sports and I have a pilot's license. I enjoy world travel. I am associated with a well-known distribution center. Although I suffer from ankylosing spondylitis (brought on by heavy lifting) and type 2 diabetes (due to the fact I can't resist sweets), I continue to manage a large herd of ruminant livestock which keeps me very busy year 'round. I am interested in introducing young people to Ham Radio and strive to make contacts that motivate and encourage positive behaviors.**

**WHO AM I ?**

**Contact: (WAØQCJ) with your guess!**

**connies1.newsletters@gmail.com**

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## **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**

### **My First Field Day**

**What was your first FD like? Where was it held? Were you a licensed Amateur Radio operator at that time?**

**I earned a “Tech Plus” Amateur Radio operator license, four months before the field day in June of 1993. The radio I owned was a “used” Heathkit and would only work on CW. Therefore, I was a 100% CW operator. I was ill prepared to “run with the CW big dogs”**



during that field day, however, I could help by logging at the CW station. That CW station and those operators were THE “Cat’s Meow” for me.

If I remember correctly, the Tyler Amateur Radio Club had three different HF stations, not including the 2 meter packet station with a beam antenna pointed toward Dallas. I found myself on the roof of the First Aid building installing that 2 meter antenna. I was so green “licensed only 4 months earlier” I had the beam in the vertical position. A Ham came up the ladder, poked his head up over the roof edge and said, “Turn it.” I did and he shook his head with frustration and said, “Not like that. It needs to be horizontal.” Then he came up onto the roof. We (he) oriented the beam into a horizontal position and with his HT talked to one of the two or three guys downstairs that were looking at a meter, to gain the best signal strength while he “turned the antenna” (moved the antenna) back and forth, left and right. When he was finished “turning it”, I tightened the bolts to make sure it did not move due to wind. HI HI !

Two of the three HF stations were in pull campers about 50 to 75 yards from each other. One was a CW ONLY station and in a pull camper; where I spent most of my time logging for each operator that took a turn at the paddles. The other camper was 75 yards north of my location. And the third HF station was in the same building as the 2 meter station. I suppose the two HF side band stations decided on which HF bands they would work, 80 through 6 meters. I do not know if the 160 meter band was considered in that FD. Like I said, I was a green Ham operator and absorbed as much knowledge as I could. HI HI !

My son was with me at that FD and spent some time in the First Aid building before going to check out the other stations. He and I wandered around and he made a contact to someone with a very powerful station in the Chicago area. That guy took time to speak to Shawn and several other kids. Hummmm maybe was not operating FD or he just took the time when he knew a bunch of kids were at the other end of the airway! We stayed at the FD location until “dark 30”

before going home. I do not recall if we went back on Sunday. That was 32 years ago!!

At the time of this writing, SPARK-CON is a month past. My “Home Town Klub” has distinguished itself to a Top Notch level. Congratulations go to each member of SPARK!

In the SPARK Newsletter, Bret is always thanking the members for their effort in whatever activity has just been completed. His column, President’s Message, is ALWAYS encouraging the SPARK members. Bret is your biggest cheerleader and rolls up his sleeves along with the club for whatever event or activity is taking place.

Again to Bret, Congratulations for a Top Notch Award from the Amateur Radio Community!

73 to all, de KJ5ZW Phillip Markmann

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**Tyler Heibult**



**Our newest Technician Class Licensee tested at the November meeting!**

## **RICHARD (KEØQYA) RECRUITS AT NIXA HAMFEST**



**Richard spent a productive day at the Nixa Hamfest November 8<sup>th</sup> recruiting and promoting our SPARK-CON 2026 event. He made valuable contacts for vendors and received many compliments from this year's participants who were very pleased with the organization of the convention. Feedback like that just makes you want to do it all over again! ...and we shall! Once again, Richard, thanks for your representation of our Klub in Nixa!**

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### **CAN YOU GUESS THE HOLIDAY QTH?**



**Bret? Connie? Renda? Don? Marcie? Harry? Sam? Joel? Jeff? Amber?**



# BIG THANKS

**TO MARCI...(KFØHYQ) !!!**

**The SPARKLER Health and Wellness Committee has become known for their caring and concern for our membership. Marci, being the generous soul that she is, has gone above and beyond the call to recognize our veterans for their day with this beautiful military coin to honor them for their service and sacrifice. Thank You Marci...and Thank You Veterans!**



# SERIOUS FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

de Paul - (KDØETL)

## Make amateur radio club nets fun

JUNE 16, 2021 BY [DAN KB6NU](#)

If your club owns a repeater, or has access to one, your club should have a weekly net. These nets inform members about club events, provide a forum for club members to get help with any technical problems they may have, build camaraderie among club members, and are just fun. At least they should be fun.

Too often, these nets turn out to be a drudge-fest. Net controls slog through a list of check-ins, who dutifully say when called upon, "No traffic." If your net is like this, you're missing an opportunity.

When I'm net control, I like to get personal to get people talking. When I call a station, I'll say things like, "Next is W8ABC. How's life in your part of town tonight, Joe?" or "What are you up to tonight, Sam?" or "How's that antenna project coming, Don?" or "Worked any DX lately, Steve?" If someone has joined the net from outside our local area, I'll say something like, "K8XYZ, you're our DX station tonight. How are things in your part of the world?"

Often, I'll continue a conversation by asking a question about a topic brought up by a previous station. For example, if one guy says that he's having tacos for dinner, I'll ask the next person what they're having for dinner or what kind of tacos they like.

To get people to show up in the first place, make sure that your club members know about the net. An announcement should be in every club newsletter, and if your club has a mailing list, send out an email announcement every week. People are busy, and things like this can often slip through the cracks. After the net, reply to the announcement email with a list of who checked in and what you discussed. If someone sees that their buddy checked in to a net, they are more likely to check in the next week. Similarly, if they see that a topic of interest was discussed, they might join the net next week to chime in on the topic.

You might try doing some different things, too. For example, before this week's net, one guy asked if he could try sending an SSTV image over the repeater during the net. What a great idea! I, of course, said yes. On his first transmission, this guy mentioned that he was going to try this at the beginning of the second round and then pointed people towards an app—Robot36—that they could download to their Android phones. I downloaded Robot36 to my Android phone, and on his second transmission, I was able to copy the image. That was something different and fun. I'm thinking that we might even try RTTY or some other digital mode in the future.

I think you get the idea. Making a net fun will draw members, and more members means more fun. I think it's working here in Ann Arbor. Last Monday's net had 17 check-ins and a run time of 70 minutes.

Now, tell me how you make your club net fun?



## SPARK TROTS OUT MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER!

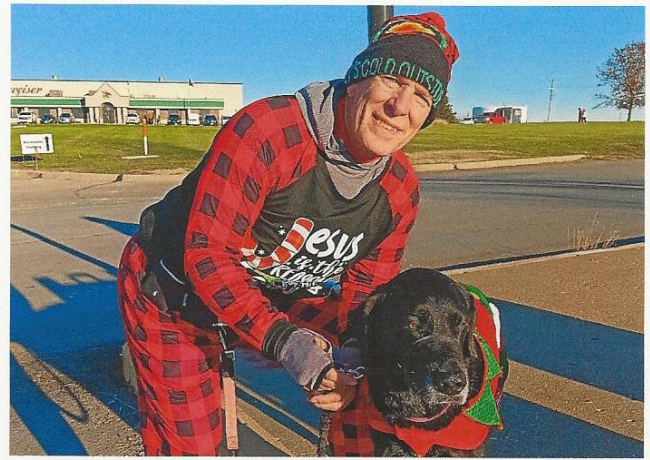


CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES TURKEY TROT NOV. 27, 2025



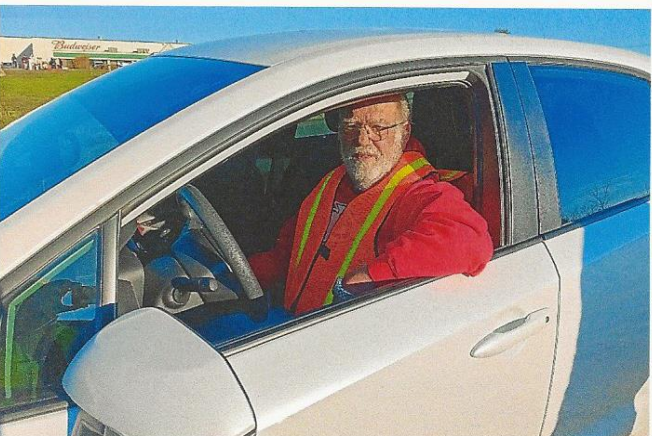
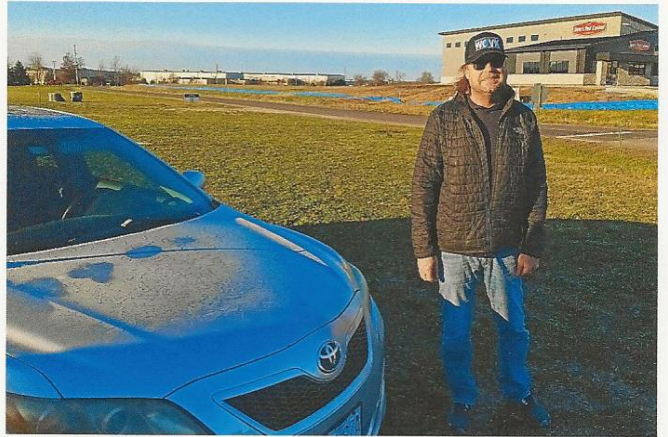
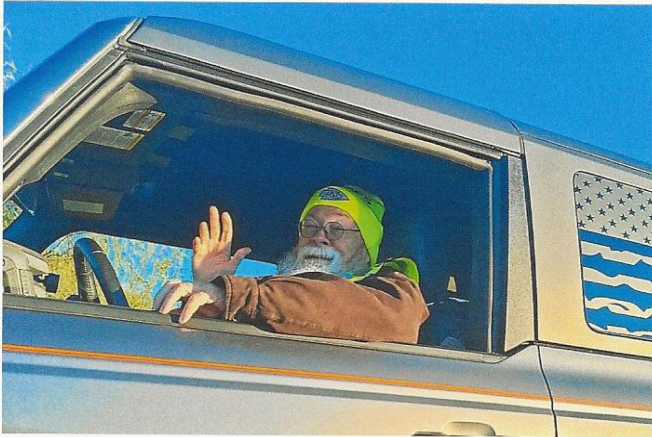
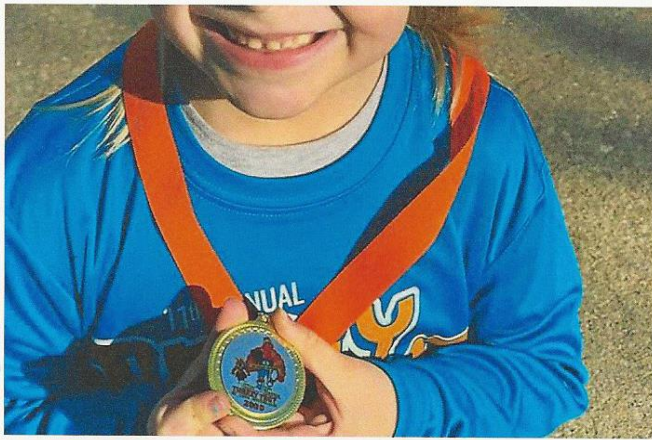
SPARK PROVIDED COMMUNICATIONS FOR RUNNER'S SAFETY





**A 25 DEGREE MORNING DIDN'T STOP THE 'TROTTERS FROM TROTTING' OR OUR MEMBERS FROM MANNING THEIR POSTS TO KEEP A VILIGANT EYE OUT FOR THE SAFETY OF HUNDREDS!**









Happy  
Thanksgiving





**MANY OF US ARE MEMBERS OF THE PETTIS COUNTY EMA ORGANIZATION. JEFF LLOYD WANTS TO REMIND US OF THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY ON **DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>** - **6:00 PM** AT THE EMA BUILDING. LOTS OF GOOD FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP ON THE MENU SO SAVE THE DATE!**

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### **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.

73! de KAØJWA

## **SANTA NET IS ON THE AIR!!!**



The Holidays are here, and Santa is firing up his ham radio! Santa Net is back on **3.916 MHz** for the 19th year! Starting Friday, November 29th, good girls and boys can talk to Santa Claus, via amateur radio, nightly starting at 7:00 PM (Central). The Santa Net will run every night through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024.

Pete Thomson (KE5GGY), of The 3916 Nets, commented on The Santa Net. He said, "Santa Net and Christmastime is our favorite time of the year on 3916. The band is quiet and we love connecting kids to Santa at the North Pole!"

Youngsters can talk to "Santa at The North Pole" via strategically placed operators (Santa Net Relay Stations) who relay the voice of Santa. Thomson credited the dedication of 3916 net members as the reason for the net's growth and longevity. He said, "What started with several children talking to Santa on 3916 back in 2005 has truly blossomed into an amazing group effort. Santa Net is only possible because of the net members who volunteer their time and talents as relay stations and in other support roles."

In addition to connecting kids with Santa, Thomson said that Santa Net also brings young people into amateur radio. He added, "Santa Net is often the first time many of these kids experience the magic of amateur radio. Every year we hear from parents and sometimes even the kids who go onto get their amateur license after taking part in Santa Net."

Prior to each night's Santa Net, pre-net check-ins can be made at <https://www.cqsanta.com/> Third party rules and regulations apply.

The Santa Net is presented by The 3916 Nets. The Rag Chew Crew, The Tailgaters, 3916 Trivia and The Freewheelers are all amateur radio nets that meet on 3.916 MHz nightly. For more information on The 3916 Nets, go to <http://www.3916nets.com> For more information on The Santa Net go to <https://www.cqsanta.com/> or email KE5GGY at Gmail dot com.

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