



S.P.A.R.K.

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

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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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2026: Turn the Dial Forward — SPARK WAØSDO

SPARK Members,

As we step into 2026, I want to pause for a moment and simply say thank you. The Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Klub continues to thrive because of the people behind the call signs. Every check-in, every meeting, every antenna experiment, every question asked or answered helps keep SPARK active, relevant, and strong.

A new year isn't just about resolutions, it's about momentum. The question for 2026 is simple: What will you put on the air this year?

If You're New — Start the Journey

If you're not yet licensed, or you know someone who isn't, make 2026 the year that all changes. Getting licensed cannot get any easier with the Volunteer Examiners we have in this club. The classes we have each spring have a proven record and we love to see the attendees go on to become awesome HAM Operators. The learning tools available today make studying smarter, and not harder, give it a try!

If you're already licensed but sitting on a Technician ticket, consider upgrading to General or Extra this year. The extra spectrum is worth it.

Ham radio grows one operator at a time and that next operator might be someone you already know, bring them to a club meeting.

If You're Comfortable — I ask you to Stretch a Little. It's easy to settle into familiar habits: the same repeater, the same band, the same mode. In 2026, challenge yourself to wander a bit. Try a mode you've never used. Explore weak-signal digital modes. Spend time on 6 meters when conditions are right, you know we have a 6 meter repeater right? Operate SSB or CW on 2 meters. Remember, every ham has full privileges above 30 MHz, and VHF/UHF experimentation is often where some of the most fun happens. Don't worry about perfection; antennas don't need to be pretty to work. Sometimes the "temporary" antenna becomes the best one you've ever built.

Set a Target — Then Chase It! Goals give radio direction. Pick one that excites you:

☐ Earn WAS (Worked All States) or DXCC (DX Century Club) there are over a hundred countries out there.

☐ Improve your contest performance, get comfortable on the air, it gets easier every time.

- Increase CW speed or finally get comfortable using it on the air. I personally need to be better at this.
- Modernize your station or logging system, this will make looking at your new contacts easy and fun
- Digitize old logs and fully use LoTW or QRZ

Big or small, progress beats perfection. Pick something achievable and commit to it.

Build, Break, Learn, Repeat! One of the most rewarding parts of amateur radio is creating something with your own hands. Kits, antennas, test gear, or QRP projects. Building teaches lessons no manual ever will.

Daren and Tony are currently doing some amazing things with foxhunt antennas, stay tuned.

Our club workshops will continue, but don't wait for a scheduled event. Build something at home and bring it to a meeting. Show it off. Talk about what worked—and what didn't. Members like Chris KC0TKS and others have a wealth of kit and QRP experience just ask them to share.

Melt some solder. Make mistakes. That's how real learning happens.

Share What You Know! You don't need to be an expert to teach. If you know how to crimp connectors, install coax, organize wiring, or troubleshoot noise, you know something valuable.

Consider helping with a workshop or giving a short presentation. When knowledge is shared, the entire club gets stronger.

Be the Signal That Grows SPARK!

In 2026, let's all be HAMbassadors for our club!

Invite someone to a meeting. Demonstrate radio at a community event. Encourage a young person to get licensed. Our club continues to support youth involvement with testing fees and first-radio assistance. Use that opportunity to bring new energy into SPARK. Growth doesn't happen automatically. It happens because someone like you made the invitation.

Get Out of the Shack!

Portable operations remain one of the most enjoyable ways we operate and learn together. Whether it's a simple setup at a park or a full POTA activation, getting outside the shack builds skills, friendships, and memories. Our monthly events in the spring through fall are some of my favorite events.

As the weather improves, let's continue making portable operations a regular part of our Klub culture.

You don't have to lead every time, everyone can help in their own way, do it!

Make 2026 a Year You'll Remember!

Most importantly, have fun! Laugh at the mistakes. Celebrate the contacts. Enjoy the friendships.

Amateur radio is about curiosity, service, and community, SPARK has all three, we are a ARRL Special Service Club.

I am honored to serve as your club president and proud to be part of SPARK. I wish you and your families a happy, healthy, safe, and radio-filled 2026.

Now, turn the dial forward, and let's see what we can do together.

Bret Kuhns W0VK

President, Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

NEXT MEETING – January 3rd 8:30

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)**

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



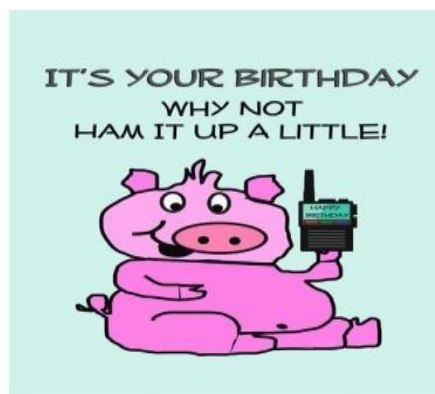
January Birthdays!

David Stockton – (KFØQPI) 10th

Scott Covey (KDØHMH) 18th

Steve Demoss (WAØWUY) 25th

Ron Hellesvig (KFØITC) 31st



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

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?



SPARK Members and Friends, your editor pulled a fast one on you in December! Hi Hi. The WHO-ZIT is not a member of our Klub!

As I share some pretty direct, spot-on hints I hope you can find some humor in all and forgive me of my folly...UNTIL THE NEXT TIME! Hi Hi!

1. I prefer to work 75 and 20 Meters SSB and CW and enjoy working Special Event stations. **I have my own Special Event Station!**
2. Historically my native homeland is Finland. **Yes, that's where I initially became the iconic figure of all children who 'Believe'.**
3. My hobbies include Ham Radio, woodworking, winter sports and I have a pilot's license. **From the very beginning I have been the creator of toys...starting right in my own personal woodworking shop. My favorite winter sport is sledding (specifically with my sleigh) and I have a pilot's license which enables me in my mission to make home deliveries.**
4. I enjoy world travel. **It's a whirlwind trip, but I accomplish it in one night!**
5. I am associated with a well-known distribution center! **I operate 'Santa's Workshop North Pole'! LLC**
6. 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.
Ankylosing Spondylitis is a form of arthritis resulting in back pain from repeated lifting of large bags of gifts onto my sleigh! Type 2 diabetes is the result of eating all those cookies and hot chocolate left for me at numerous delivery stops. My large herd of ruminant livestock consists of select reindeer which are well-fed and kept in top condition for that one annual run they make near the end of the year.
7. I am interested in introducing young people to Ham Radio and strive to make contacts that motivate and encourage positive behaviors. **I operate Santa Net in November and December to QSO with good girls and boys. I encourage them to sustain or develop good behaviors so that they may be on my 'good list' and welcome a visit from me on Christmas Eve!**
8. My call is: NØP (Yes, you'll find it in QRZ!)

Justin Nash, one of our newest members, thought outside the box and guessed our WHO-ZIT to be Santa Claus! Congrats Justin!

WHO AM I?

Contact: (WAØQCJ) with your guess!

connies1.newsletters@gmail.com

DID YOU GUESS THE HOLIDAY QTH?



Didn't guess the QTH of this striking Christmas display? It belongs to Don, (KFØARQ). Goes to show you that an amateur radio mast can serve more purpose than just supporting an all-band antenna! Don, you earned yourself a pan of brownies! BTW...a lovely display enjoyed by many!

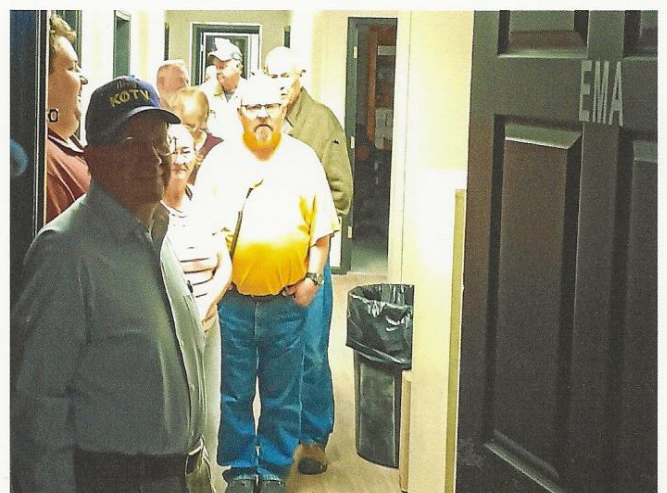
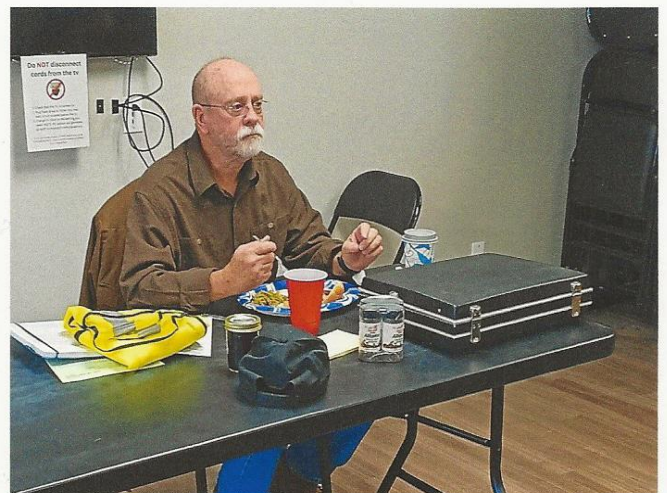
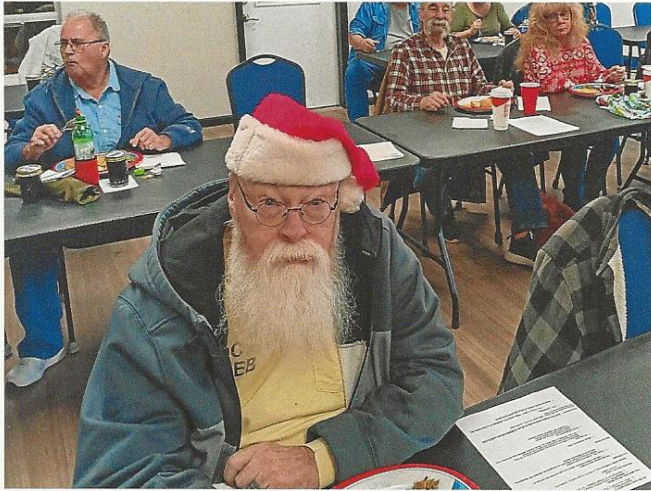


SPARK CHRISTMAS FEAST

DECEMBER 6, 2025



WE PARTIED LIKE IT WAS 2025!





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

Amateur Radio Milestones

My journey officially had the #1 milestone March 2, 1993. I say “officially” because I started showing interest in Shortwave and Amateur radio at age 12 or 13. Several months ago, I wrote of the quartz crystal radio I received the summer I turned 13. However, my actual milestone was when I took the Technician written test and the 5 WPM Morse code exam, and received a call sign of KB5YXD.

So, let's call Milestone #1; getting your first license, and looking for your first radio (probably an HT). This brings us to milestone #2; your first contact and learning more about Radio communications and antennas; using a repeater and learning to program memory frequencies into your new rig.

For me, milestones #1, #2, and #3 merged together. I had already been on a radio as a CBer in the 70's and operated a radio while in the Army 1966-1969. And yet, I was still kinda' green when it came to the microphone. Didn't care for microphones and still don't. That being said, I have run the net several times. My hearing aids “almost work” and therefore on those occasions I do run the net, I use the “roll call” methods.

That way I do not need to ask folks to repeat their call sign 2 or 3 times. With 70 members in the Wood County Amateur Radio Association, there is ample room for folks to sign up for the Net control position.

Anywho-o-o...the 3rd milestone might be another license of General Class or a higher license known as Amateur Extra Class.

Your 3rd milestone might be a long-distance contact to Europe, Australia, Alaska, South America, or Japan; you get the picture. So, ...we may call the 3rd milestone a transition to HF for World Wide contacts.

Side note: for me numbers 1,2 & 3 merged as my first Ham radio was a Heathkit that only worked on CW (Morse Code). I was a 100% CW operator from the very first day my KB5YXD was assigned to me. With that radio and wire antenna I worked HAM stations all over the United States of America, Canada, Nova Scotia, Mexico, Caribbean, Brazil, South America & Japan. Did not make contact to Australia or

Alaska. Heard South Africa on the air 3 times with no contact. Anywho-o-o, ...he just could not hear me in the pileup.

The 4th and 5th milestones will probably look like one milestone and merge. You might learn Morse code and enjoy the CW conversation using the oldest digital mode, CW!

Other digital programs might "Crank your tractor." Building and using beam antennas may be where you turn away from wire antennas.

How about Satellite communications?

The point of this discourse is where we should realize the HAM radio Hobby is wide open for a new discovery!

Go Get 'em Tiger!!

The last point to mention; you might be like me and a whole sub-culture of CW operators that is content to use the oldest digital method of communications as a CW op. Whatever fits you best, enjoy your radio hobby and have fun.

My Goals for 2026:

Setup and operate RTTY, get my winlink.org email & use it. Install another horizontal wire "just for" 30 meters. Make a Satellite contact. I have worked the USS Missouri back in 2003 while living 6 miles north of Wheatland MO – I want to make another contact to Hawaii from my current QTH and also make a contact to Alaska.

Summarize milestones:

#1 Get interested enough to study the Technician question pool, take the test and get your first license.

#2 First contact and start learning more about the HAM Hobby.

#3 Long-distance contact transition to HF & learn more.

#4 Perhaps another license above General Class and "give back" to the HAM Radio community. You might give back by helping the Training Coordinator, which in this case is Daren Nerad KD0OPS. An exceptional trainer. Maybe even make a CW contact!

I look forward to hearing you on the air!

73 fer' now and Happy New Year

(KJ5ZW) Phillip

Marci - KFØHYQ Faces Manslaughter Charges!



Following are facts reported to Pettis County Sheriff's office regarding a hit and run altercation on the early morning of December 11th, 2025 in Pettis County. Due to previous murder charges involving Mr. Easter Bunny and KFØHYQ in 2022, bail has been set at \$5,000,000,000. In addition, prosecuting attorney is petitioning for restitution for replacement of said reindeer belonging to NØP and revocation of her driving license during the Holiday seasons as she has proven herself to be a frequent offender.

Marci got run over by a reindeer...
driving on to work one frigid morn.
There was a herd of four...
one crashed into her door.
It made her very sad and quite forlorn.
Marci hit the brake...
That reindeer's life to take.
then realized the worst was yet to be!
She had no 'CAR' deer tag,
that reindeer for to bag.
Now she's wanted by the MDC !

***** Previous charges against KFØHYQ in 2022*****



LOCAL CRIME SCENE LEAVES LOCAL CITIZENS AGHAST!

Police investigators have poured over video footage, interviewed witnesses, combed through social media chatter and shared surveillance images of the suspects with other police agencies in an *all-points bulletin*. It is alleged that a person of interest, Marcia Withers (KFØHYQ), has processed, cooked, and eaten Mr. Easter Bunny! Her only defense statement was: " He was a 'Wascally Wabbit'!" Others connected to this heinous crime include fellow perpetrator within the family pod, Paul Withers (KDØETL). If you have information regarding this case contact Officer Nick (KEØNIL) at BR549!
(Hi Hi !...Love you Marci de QCJ)



ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO®

Obsolete Part 97 Rules to be Deleted February 10, 2026

12/19/2025

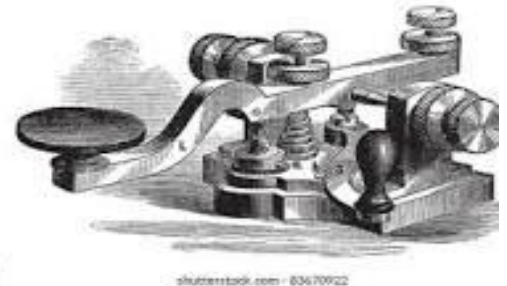
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in October 2025 adopted a Report and Order to delete almost 400 obsolete rules pertaining to its wireless services. As [previously reported by ARRL](#), among the deletions were four in Part 97 that govern the Amateur Radio Service.

ARRL reports that the notice of the Report and Order has now been published in the [Federal Register](#). Unless an objection is raised by January 2 that the Commission finds to deserve its consideration, the following four Part 97 provisions will be deleted as of February 10, 2026:

1. **§ 97.27.** This provision is duplicative of a statutory provision related to the FCC's right to modify station licenses.
2. **§ 97.29.** This provision specified an obsolete procedure to replace paper licenses. ARRL proposed deleting this section in comments filed earlier this year.
3. **§ 97.315 (b)(2).** This obsolete provision grandfathered HF amplifiers purchased before April 28, 1978 by an amateur radio operator for use at that operator's station, and grandfathered those manufactured before April 28, 1978, for which a marketing waiver was issued.
4. **§ 97.521(b) and Appendix 2.** This rule and appendix relate to obsolete VEC regions.

MORSE CODE CLASS TO BE OFFERED

All are invited to join like-minded operators who would like to learn Morse Code. Deadline to sign up is January 15th. Following are the specifications:



* Class will last 11 weeks – one evening a week starting in February. Location depends upon EMA building availability.

* Student must dedicate at least 20 minutes of practice daily to be successful.

* A Code Practice Oscillator (beeper) can be ordered for you (\$30.00) or you can provide your own.

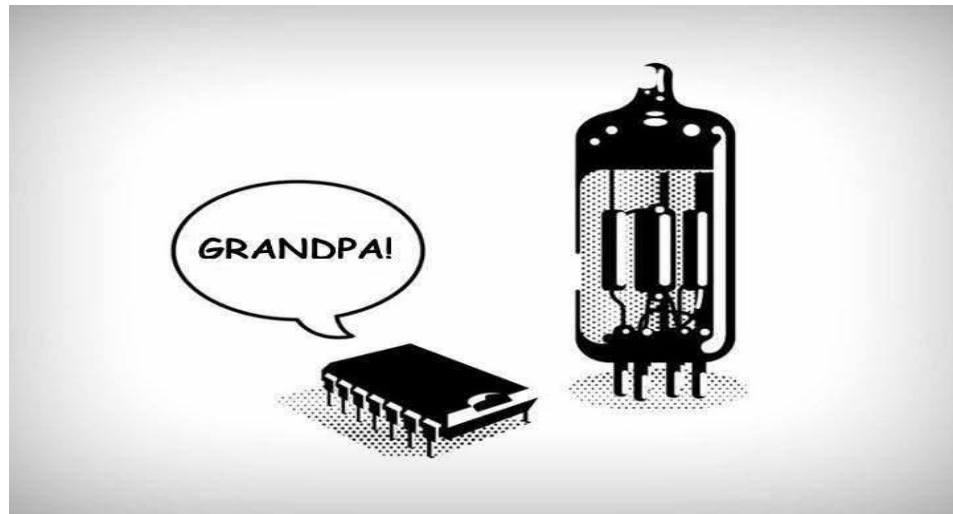
*Class will be video instruction by 'THE HAM WHISPERER' at the following YouTube site: <https://www.youtube.com/user/merryviking>

*Before you commit to this class, go to the Ham Whisperer site and review the first two lessons to become familiar with how the class will be taught. This is the way I learned the code and haven't found a better way yet. It has very positive reviews. Upfront I'll tell you, learning the Code takes dedication and it can be frustrating...but once accomplished, you will have joined a legion of operators who are proud to have become Brass Pounders. I would be proud to help get you there! 73! Instructor – Connie - (WAØQ CJ)

SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS (KAØJWA)

Here we are! Looking forward to another year of Amateur Radio! Hope you will find many opportunities to put our hobby to good use. Make a few contacts or install a new antenna. January marks the start of the fourth year of your newsletter with issue No. 48! Your support with articles submitted and suggestions made have been greatly appreciated. After all, this is your newsletter and your input is welcomed. If you would like to write an article or story and submit it for publication, feel free to do so. 73 and good DXing!

73! de KAØJWA



73 de WAØQCJ

QRT FOR NOW! de WAØQCJ es KAØJWA

SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS

(KAØJWA)



QRT FOR NOW! de WAØQCJ es KAØJWA