S.P.A.R.K.

February 2026

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub **Issue No. 49**

NEWSLETTER

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

Co-Editors

Connie Koch

(WAØQCJ)

Brooks Baker

(KAØJWA)

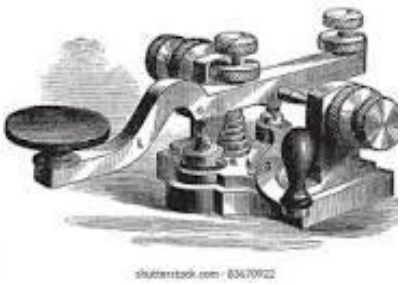
INSIDE

EDITOR'S MOMENT

MORSE CODE CLASS ON THE BOOKS...

AND WE'LL BE POUNDIN' BRASS!

DE WAØQCJ !!!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with a very heavy heart that I share the news that one of our longtime members and a very dear friend of mine, John Mullins, N0EE, has passed away. John lost his battle with cancer on January 2, 2026.

John made a truly significant contribution to the success and growth of the Sedalia Amateur Radio Club. Many members may not know that John originally started our 220 repeater and later handed stewardship of it to Jeff, WB0LRX. Today, that repeater stands as the oldest and longest running 220 repeater in the state of Missouri, an incredible legacy.

John also spearheaded and established our club's Volunteer Examiner team. Having served as a VE for many years, John felt this was the next natural step for our club, becoming a self-sustaining testing club. His vision and dedication helped make that possible.

On a personal level, John was a great mentor and Elmer to me in all things amateur radio. We traveled all over the Midwest together attending so many Hamfests, and I can honestly say he taught me more than I could ever put into words. It will not be the same attending Hamfests without him, and I will truly miss him.

As for club business, it was unfortunate that we had to cancel Winter Field Day. However, given the conditions, it was the right call. Our host location needed to remain available for snow and ice removal, and it was important that we not impede their operations in a non-emergency situation. While I understand these are exactly the kinds of conditions we like to train in, I am very confident in our membership's abilities and preparedness should a real emergency arise.

I'm already looking forward to spring when we can all get back outside together, though we still have a couple of winter months ahead. On a personal note, I recently assembled a replacement antenna for my home station after it was damaged in last fall's windstorm. I'm still on the hunt for that special desk for the shack as we continue a home remodel, but I'm getting excited about getting fully back on the air soon.

Richard's Club Repeater Challenge for the first quarter of 2026 has been quite exciting. I've completed my first month of the challenge and have noticed many others doing the same. It's been great hearing everyone on the air and actively participating.

Connie has a CW class coming up in early February, and if you have even a little interest, I highly recommend giving it a try. It's fun, low-stress, and a great way to expand your amateur radio skills, especially during these cold winter months.

I hope everyone is staying warm, and if you get a chance, please take a moment to remember John, (N0EE), SK

President Bret Kuhns W0VK

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NEXT MEETING – January 3rd 8:30

Pettis County EOC --- 1511 N. Ohio

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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)

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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February Birthdays!

Grace Finch (KEØMER) 1st

Mark Jackson (NØOWZ) 3rd

Jackie Semon (KFØTNN) 4th

Paul Withers (KDØETL) 10th

Mike Hawkins (KEØUHO) 17th

Rick Wade (KDØCNC) 26th

Russ Taylor (KN6NDZ) 28th

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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

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

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WHO-ZIT?

I was career Navy, 24 years as a Radioman and that is what got me interested in amateur radio.

During childhood in or around 1950's, I participated in the Monterey Monarch Butterfly festival by marching in the parade. Mother dressed me up as a rich playboy.

I learned to play the drums in Junior High School and played in just about all the school bands that there were. I spent a lot of time during high school days at Lions Drag Strip and even got to run my Honda CB160 down the quarter mile, just for fun. I obtained my AS degree along the way.

I have been on 6 of the 7 continents. Missed Antarctica, darn it.

I crossed the equator twice, north to south travel. First time was on a civilian ocean liner on our way to Rio De Janeiro Brazil (dad was in the Army). Traveled on Moore McCormic lines either the SS Brazil or SS Argentina to Rio and one of the two liners on the way back.

I met 2 crew members from the B29 Enola Gay. Also met several pilots from Claire Chennaults Flying Tigers at an autograph session

Road a horse and hiked to the top of Bromo Volcano in East Java Indonesia.

Starting from Germany and heading west to Mombasa, Kenya, almost completed going around the world just missing it by a few miles.

I worked at Point Mugu as a civilian with the Navy Astronautics Group, one of the forerunners to todays GPS system. Then it was not open to civilian use, strictly Military.

Was also in on the beginnings of todays Satellite Communications while in the Navy. That was an exciting time.

My first field day was when I was in Hawaii. The local ham store was running classes for technician, and we got to participate in the contest. My job was to rotate the beam antenna using a rope and log contacts.

Hope I get those Brownies!!!

WHO AM I ? Contact: (WAØQCJ) with your guess! connies1.newsletters@gmail.com

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FIRST QUARTER CHALLENGE!

We were challenged last month by VP, Richard (KEØQYA) to participate in an exciting 2-Meter contest for the months of January, February, and March! Here's the scoop!

Make 10 different individual contacts in January, February, and March (total of 30). Note the time and date of your contacts. You can make a contact with the same person each month. Checking into the net is not part of the challenge. The purpose of the challenge is to generate activity on the repeater. Those who complete the challenge will be awarded a certificate....and braggin' and talkin' rights! (Hope you were able to get your 10 contacts for January as you need all three months to qualify.)

Let's get on it! BIG 73!

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SPARK AWARDS LIFETIME HONORS

SPARK has honored two long-time members of our Klub with the prestigious award of Lifetime Membership. This is not an award bestowed lightly. It cannot be bought or gifted to any member. It must be earned. Mark Jackson (NØOWZ) and Daren Nerad, (KDØOPS) have both shown qualities that make them deserving of this award and are to be congratulated and welcomed into this elite membership as Life Timers!

The ARRL Solar Update

01/30/2026

Solar activity continued at low levels this week. Low level C-class flares were observed from Regions 4342 and 4353. The majority of the regions were either stable or in decay. New Regions 4359, 4360, and 4361 emerged on the disk and were numbered. No Earth-directed Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) were observed. The forecast calls for solar activity to remain at low levels with a chance for M-class flares (R1-R2/Minor-Moderate) through January 31.

Solar wind parameters reflected a solar sector boundary crossing followed by the likely onset of high speed stream (HSS) conditions. On January 27, phi angle switched into a negative sector. Solar wind speed began to increase after January 28 to around 610 km/s. Enhancements in the solar wind environment are expected through January 31 under negative polarity Coronal Hole High Speed Streams (CH HSS) influences.

The geomagnetic field is expected quiet to unsettled levels on January 31, and quiet levels on February 1.

Solar activity is expected to be predominately low with a varying chance for M-class flares (R1-R2/Minor-Moderate) through February 21.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels on January 31, and then on February 1 to 3. Normal to moderate flux levels are expected to persist through the remainder of the period.

Geomagnetic field activity is likely to reach G1 (Minor) storm levels on February 13, with active periods likely on February 4 and 5 due to the influences of multiple, recurrent CH HSSs. Quiet and quiet-to-unsettled conditions are expected to prevail throughout the

remainder of the outlook period.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere, January 29, 2026, by F. K. Janda, OK1HH:

"The number of sunspot groups has ranged between eight and ten in recent days, but these are mostly magnetically simple areas with low eruptive activity. However, the solar wind is blowing faster and faster from the Sun, resulting in increased geomagnetic activity, especially since January 28. Although this was expected, the combination of fast solar wind, while rapid and significant changes in the polarity of the interplanetary magnetic field has had atypical consequences in the ionosphere. These include numerous occurrences of ionospheric waveguides on January 28 and during the night of January 29.

"In the coming days, solar and geomagnetic activity should continue to decline. The next increase in geomagnetic activity can be expected in the middle of the first week of February, but this time without the major influence of high-speed solar wind. Therefore, only a decrease in critical frequencies and an increase in attenuation are expected in the ionosphere until February 6, followed by a return to average values is expected."

The latest solar report by Dr. Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW, can be found on YouTube at, https://youtu.be/JXKADnd1E8w?si=pTrl5bAwGvvajUuF .

The Predicted Planetary A Index for January 31 to February 6 is 8, 5, 5, 5, 15, 12, and 10, with a mean of 8.6. Predicted Planetary K Index is 3, 2, 2, 2, 4, 4, and 3, with a mean of 2.9. 10.7-centimeter flux is 120, 120, 130, 140, 140, 130, and 120, with a mean of 128.6.

For more information concerning shortwave radio propagation, see http://www.arrl.org/propagation and the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at, http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals. For an explanation of numbers used in this bulletin, see http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere . Information and tutorials on propagation can be found at, http://k9la.us/ .

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

Current Flow Direction

In October's newsletter (2025), I wrote of the impossible becoming possible, with input and output circuits. Ohm's law is rightly called electronic theory. We electronic technicians, understand current flow travels from negative to positive. And yet, Ohm's law breaks down within the nucleus of an atom where the current flow is from positive to negative. In 1973, I was working for State Fair Community College and was sent to Chicago for a one-on-one, three-day training session, on the Shibaden studio camera. The production studio at SFCC had two of the Shibaden cameras.

More importantly the training went through each circuit board component-by-component, following current flow and learning the "How-To's" for troubleshooting techniques and repair of the same. American's follow "electron" current flow, where as the Japanese follow "hole flow." Hole flow is called conventional current flow.

(Explanation of hole flow: As electrons leave one atom and go to another atom there is a hole or space that is filled by another electron leaving one atom to the hole or space just vacated by the preceding electron.) These holes appear to be traveling positive to negative as the electrons in the positive direction (neg to pos). The invention of the electron microscope was an eye-opening event. (1931)

The trainer and I had an enjoyable discussion because we both knew that "hole flow" and "electron current flow" gave the same result. I returned home with a "full understanding" of how to repair and adjust those cameras. The adjustment and alignment of each circuit board for the best picture

quality wasn't difficult, just detailed.
At that time, the Shibaden cameras were "state of the art" for production studios. Those cameras had 3 Vidicon tubes; one each for Red, Green, and Blue. I would focus the camera on the conversion chart and adjust each Vidicon tube to align each of the dots on the chart. When all were perfectly aligned, the dots would all be white.

Now-w-w …how does this relate to Radio? Specifically Amateur Radio.
We ground our stations to protect against lightening whether that lightening is electron current, Proton current or EMP. It does not matter to the HAM. He or she just wants to protect their costly electronic equipment, be it antennas, radios, or coax. The Theory is interesting all the same.
For those interested in a bit more of an explanation for Protons, electrons, and neutrons.
According to one paragraph from my college school book; Protons, neutrons, and electrons are the three main subatomic particles that make up an atom. Protons have a positive charge and are found in the nucleus, neutrons have no charge and also reside in the nucleus, while electrons have a negative charge and orbit around the nucleus.

Signing off fer' now,
KJ5ZW Phillip Markmann

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FOR YOUR FUNNY BONE

Just a few funnies found on HAM sites I hope will give you a tickle! **Hi Hi!**

I BET MY WIFE TEN BUCKS I WOULDN'T BUY ANOTHER RADIO.

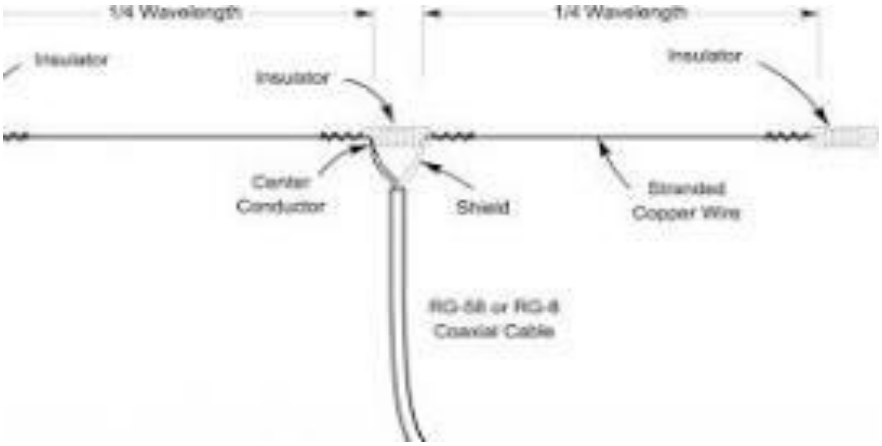
SHE WINS TEN DOLLARS AND I GET ANOTHER RADIO.

EVERYBODY'S HAPPY!

SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS (KAØJWA)

Six Meter Fun

Many of the newer rigs come with 6 Meters right out of the box. A lot of operators don't take advantage of this and miss out on the fun to be had. Six is a lot like ten meters in many respects. For the most part if you can hear a station well, they can usually hear you. When it's open, you don't have to have a kilowatt and giant Yagi to work the world. A simple dipole will work or a vertical such as the Ringo Ranger AR-6, also provides satisfactory results but please keep in mind the bigger the antenna the bigger the signal. A simple three element Yagi, dipole or quad would probably be all the antenna you would ever need.



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COMMERCIAL MESSAGE

This is a shout-out to Gary at Central Communications who brought my new computer to life this past week. I desperately required a transfer of goods from my old computer to the new one. As you can see…we now have a newsletter and all is well in Connie-Land. Can't thank Gary enough and am recommending his talents to anyone who needs future computer assistance.

QRT FOR NOW de KAØJWA es WAØQCJ

SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS

(KAØJWA)

QRT FOR NOW! de WAØQCJ es KAØJWA