



S.P.A.R.K.

May 2026

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

Issue No. 52



NEWSLETTER

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

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(WAØQCJ)

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(KAØJWA)

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EDITOR'S MOMENT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



May Message from the President

As we roll into May, I just want to take a moment to recognize the incredible momentum our club is building.

Last weekend's Parks on the Air event at Bothwell Lodge State Park was a huge success, our first one, and definitely not our last. A special thank you goes out to Joel KE0WJX, who somehow managed to coordinate the entire operation, keep everyone organized, and cook pancakes at the same time. That kind of dedication is what makes this club special. Because of efforts like his, and all of yours, everyone had a great time and got on the air successfully.

I've also been out on the road representing our club at hamfests and conventions across the Midwest, working to bring in vendors and talent for our upcoming SPARK-CON this October. There's a lot of excitement building, and it's clear that what we're creating here in Sedalia is getting noticed.

We've got something really good going. Whether you're new to the hobby or have decades behind the mic, this club is about learning, sharing, and having a great time doing it.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on May 2nd. Bring your ideas, your stories, and your enthusiasm, we're just getting started.

73,

Bret W0VK

President

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

NEXT MEETING – May 2nd - 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 2026 **de – Brooks (KAØJWA)**

05/15/2026 – 05/17/2026 -Dayton Hamvention – Xenia OH

06/14/2026 – Egyptian Fest 2026 - St. Louis, MO

07/18/2026 – Warrensburg Hamfest – Warrensburg, Mo.

07/19/2026 – Washington Hamfest – Washington, Mo.

08/09/2026 - "Never Enough Radios" - O' Fallon, Mo.

08/??/2026 – Joplin Hamfest (date unavailable at this time)

10/09 & 10 – SPARK-CON – Sedalia, Mo.

10/31/2026 - 33rd Halloween Hamfest - Kirkwood, Mo.

11/14/2026 - Nixa ARC Hamfest - Nixa, Mo.



May Birthdays!

Joel Klonowski – 6th (KE0WJX)

Leo Shuart – 6th (KF0IHY)

Renda Jackson – 17th (KB0UVW)

David Marsh – 30th (W1OTW)



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?



I was born and raised near Sedalia. I once tried to be Superman by jumping off the chicken house to the swing set...hit my nose on the top bar...fell flat on my back and passed out. I made many unauthorized bicycle journeys throughout the surrounding miles near our home without parental supervision...*(should have had parental supervision)*! Spent many hours fishing the creeks nearby. Probably got more scrapes and cuts than I should have. One time the front forks on my bike broke and I ended up caught in a barbed wire. Makes you wonder how I survived to write this WHO-ZIT for Connie!

I played a little basketball in High School. I've fly fished in Colorado, South Dakota and Alaska. Once I found my lifetime job...I'd found it! I had an opportunity to be on top of the World Trade Center in 1995 and have been to Washington DC as well.

WHO AM I? Contact: (WAØQCJ) with your guess!
Connies1.newsletters@gmail.com





CW CLASS GRADUATES FIVE BRASS POUNDERS!

Hearty members of the Wednesday evening CW class have completed their 11-week journey to becoming skilled Brass Pounders. It was a pleasure to have junior members, Caleb and Kendall Nerad, offspring of the Amber (KEØQYL) and Daren (KDØOPS) QTH in the class! All seemed to enjoy the lessons and take with them a valuable life skill. I'm very proud of their tenacity and progress and hope to offer more instruction to unwary victims in the in the future. Hi Hi

de (WAØQCJ)



Congratulations! Kendall Nerad, Daren Nerad (KDØOPS), Amber Nerad (KEØQYL), Don Weldon (KFØARQ) and Caleb Nerad!



GUEST EDITORIAL – PHILLIP MARKMANN (KJ5ZW)

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

Rhombic Antenna

By Phillip Markmann

Over fifty years ago (1974) I built a rhombic antenna for our black and white TV and fed the TV with 300 Ohm twin lead. My wife and I could tune into television channels from: Springfield, Sedalia, and every once in a while, Jeff City. I do not remember any Kansas City channels coming in. It doesn't mean we didn't receive any KC signals such as CH 4 and CH 5. My gray cells just do not recall watching TV from KC. Every once in a while, CH 2 would come in from St. Joe, very late at night. We also would receive a channel from Columbia (CH 8?) One night we even picked up Waco, Texas!! I do not remember what channel that was nor did it stay. I am sure that was a fluke, driven by propagation.

The point is, a Rhombic antenna is a very good choice if your wire is above the roof of your house and the house is on top of a hill. Well, there you go Here in East Texas, I have plenty of pine trees to put up a Rhombic antenna if I wish to utilize them in the future.

Back to 1974, on the roof of the house we were renting, I nailed four 2" x 1" x 16" or 17" boards to the peaks of the roof. I had about 100 feet of old coax I found on the ground in an alley in Sedalia before we moved to the country.

I removed the rubber outside and then worked on removing the center conductor from the copper braid. Next, I used my hands to flatten the copper braid and went back up onto the roof and attached the copper braid to the four 2" x 1" boards and soldered 300 Ohm twin lead to both ends of the braid and ran the twin lead down to the television.

Today, I would not be using copper braid nor will I be on any roof of our house or workshop! Would use 12-gauge wire as I have plenty in my stock. Also, I would measure the length of the 12-gauge wire and attach to my pine trees and attempt to get the 4 sides as equal as I could. Yes, I realize that all 4 sides would not be equal nor do they have to be. I would get the sides as equal in length as I could. Instead of twin lead to feed this antenna, I have LMR 400 coax. Should be interesting how this Rhombic antenna does "on the air" and what balun ratio would be needed, if any. If necessary, would utilize a home brew balun to match the antenna impedance of the antenna system to the 50 Ohm radio requirements. The most important measurement would be the overall antenna wire length. One wavelength at the lowest frequency I plan on using the most. If I actually complete such a project and get on the air, I will let you know how good or bad this antenna does.

Right now, I have a good OCF wire in the air. I have no need to replace or "fix" an antenna that is "working" just fine!

"The better part of one's life consists of his friendships."

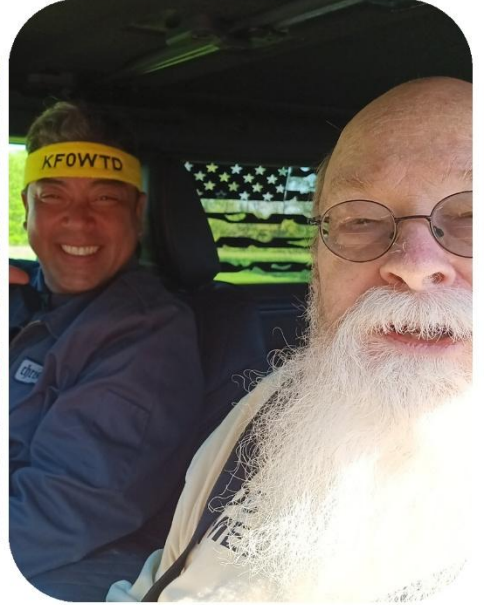
- Abraham Lincoln -

Until next time,
"Ya'll" stay safe and healthy.
KJ5ZW Phillip Markmann

‘CAKES N’ CONTACTS POTA EVENT
April 25, 2026 – Bothwell Lodge State Park



What a **DAY!** What an **EVENT!** What **WX!** What **CONTACTS!** We activated Bothwell Lodge State Park once again with 16 easy contacts! Alaska! Utah! Florida! Minnesota! Texas! ...and MORE! We definitely rocked the band today with sweet signals throughout. We just can't thank Joel (KEØWJX) enough for hosting this event as well as his most excellent pancake breakfast as promised! Lori (KFØIHX) and Leo (KFØIHY), in true fashion, provided coffee and ham to round out the most excellent meal!





How To Get An “OFFICIAL” Copy Of Your FCC License

de Harry Burford (KØTV)

If you are licensed, then you already know this. The FCC doesn't issue printed licenses anymore. When you get a new callsign or later, want to get an “OFFICIAL” copy of your FCC License then these steps will help get you there. Instructions work now but keep in mind that when you eventually want to get your License copy the FCC might have altered the process on the site. The basic process will likely be the same. There are going to be times when you will need to validate your callsign with an “OFFICIAL” copy of your license. It's wise to keep a copy handy or know how to get it.

Step-by-step: Download an Official FCC License Copy

1. Go to the FCC ULS License Manager

<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>

2. Log in using your FRN (FCC Registration Number) and password

If you forgot your password, you can reset it on the FCC CORES page.

3. Select “Download your Electronic official Authorizations”

Find your callsign under My Authorizations

All licenses associated with your FRN will be shown here including GMRS if you have one.

Highlight and Click **ADD** for the callsigns you want to download.

Then highlight your added selection in that authorizations table and click **DOWNLOAD** to get the PDF.

NOTE: If the FCC site is busy, then there might be a short wait for the download to begin.

This PDF will say “**Official Copy**” across the background.

4. Save or print the PDF

This is your legal, official license document.

As you can see, the FCC has made it very easy to get an official copy of your FCC License. Unless you need a copy of your license or are looking to upgrade, the need to access the FCC site is rare. It can be intimidating to go there for these simple tasks if you don't visit often.

Think we are done with this topic? Nope. We are all familiar with FCC 97.21 and FCC 97.23 aren't we? Just kidding about that, Hi Hi. But seriously, it says that the FCC may suspend or revoke your license “if FCC correspondence is returned as

undeliverable because of an incorrect address/email.” So, it is important to keep your information accurate with the FCC. In fact, effective February 5, 2026 there is a new deadline that broadly applies to everyone with an FRN that says we have 10 days to update our information with the FCC if there are any changes. So, for us it is important to keep our addresses and emails updated with the FCC.

To find better written details, than what I just said, go to the ARRL.ORG website. In the Keyword search box, search for something like “FRN Contact Information” and read the news article dated Feb 20, 2026. Lots of informative information there. But that isn’t what I’m trying to accomplish with this article. What follows is the Step-by-step process to help ease the process for checking and updating your FCC information.

Step-by-step: Update your FCC license address and email

1. Go to the FCC CORES system

<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>

2. Log in using the EMAIL and PASSWORD you set up with the FCC

This will be a 2nd step process where they will email you a code for 2 factor authentication. When the email arrives, enter that code then click SUBMIT CODE. When successful, you will be at the “User Home” screen.

3. Select the item that begins with “Manage Existing FRNs”

Click “Manage FRNs” then “UPDATE/VIEW FRN” for the FRN you will update.

4. Make changes on this ‘Update FRN Registration’ table then click “SUBMIT”

Make a copy of the resulting screen documenting your activity then click “LOGOUT”

After updating your information, it would be a good idea to get a fresh copy of your OFFICIAL license from the FCC.

So, the takeaway from all this:

- Keep your address and email up to date with the FCC. Also applies to the local radio club for that matter!
- The FCC requires that you update your address and email within 10 days of a change.
- Always remember, there are fellow members in the SPARK club that will help with programming radios, installing or fixing your station, or dealing with your license. Just ask.

MID-MISSOURI HOMESTEADER'S EXPO!

APRIL 3 - 4 MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS



SEVERAL MEMBERS OF SPARK WERE ON HAND SHOWING OFF OUR COM-TRAILER AND SHARING THE MESSAGE OF HAM RADIO.





SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS

(KAØJWA)



Ham Radio To The Rescue! In this era of nearly ubiquitous cell phones, Amateur Radio still offers a way to summon help in an emergency. Ron Smith, N1PXX, of Marshfield, Massachusetts, is living proof. Over Memorial Day weekend, Smith, who's in his 60s, broke in on a conversation on the N1ZIZ 146.685 MHz repeater in Plymouth to say he was having a medical problem. One of the two stations that had been on the repeater — ARRL member Kevin O'Donnell, K1KOD — acknowledged Smith's call and asked for Smith's cell phone number. With some difficulty and assistance from the second station, David Blackford, KB1QJX, who was visiting the Cape Cod area from Connecticut, O'Donnell was able to call Smith and establish that he needed prompt medical attention. Necessary contacts were made and a life was saved due to a well-orchestrated chain of events!



QRT FOR NOW de KAØJWA es WAØQCJ

