



S.P.A.R.K.

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

JULY 2026
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NEWSLETTER

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

Co-Editors
Connie Koch
(WAØQCJ)
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(KAØJWA)
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Connie (WAØQCJ)

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Bret (WØVK)

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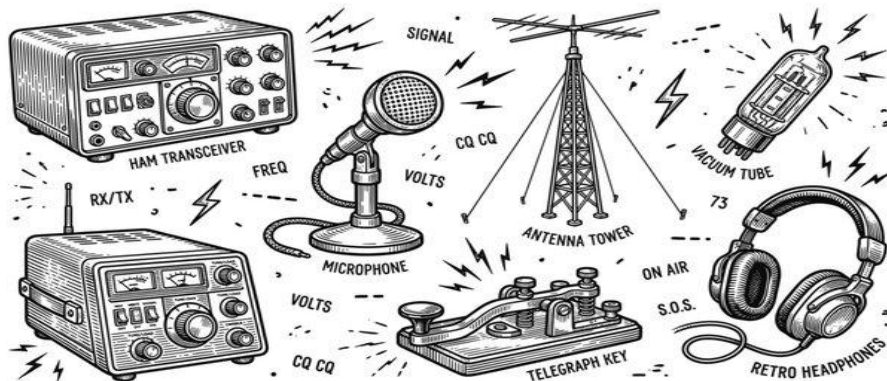
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EDITOR'S MOMENT

FOURTH OF JULY AND HAMS KNOW HOW TO CELEBRATE !!!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

As we close out the month of June, I just want to say what a fantastic ARRL Field Day we had this year! The participation from our membership was outstanding, and it was great to see so many familiar faces enjoying a weekend of amateur radio, good food, and even better fellowship.

Field Day is always about much more than making contacts. It's about coming together as a club, sharing knowledge, welcoming visitors, and enjoying the camaraderie that makes this hobby so special. This year's event was a perfect example of that, and I couldn't be prouder of our club and everyone who took part.

A huge thank you goes to Joel and his family for taking the lead in coordinating this year's event. From organizing the operating stations and equipment to making sure all the details came together, he did an outstanding job. Everything was delicious, and we certainly didn't go hungry! Thanks also to everyone who helped prepare food, set up, tear down, and jumped in wherever help was needed. It truly was a team effort.

I'd also like to recognize Paul for having our communications trailer on site and in top-notch operating condition. The trailer performed flawlessly throughout the event, and we're fortunate to have someone who takes such pride in keeping it ready for service.

Most of all, thank you to everyone who came out, operated, logged contacts, visited, or simply spent time with us. Your enthusiasm and willingness to pitch in are what make the Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Klub such a great organization. Weekends like Field Day remind us that while radios bring us together, it's the friendships and fellowship that keep us coming back.

Now it's time to turn our attention to July. I'm looking forward to getting everyone together for a Parks on the Air (POTA) activation. We'll discuss the details and choose a date at our next club meeting, so be thinking about where you'd like to activate and plan to join us for another fun day of operating.

Thank you again for making this year's Field Day such a memorable success. I'm already looking forward to what we can accomplish together next year.

Until then, I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable July. I'll see you at the next meeting.

73,

Bret W0VK

NEXT MEETING – July 11th - 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)

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

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

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

08/ 22 & 23/2026 – Joplin Hamfest – Joplin, Mo.

10/ 09 & 10 – SPARK-CON – Sedalia, Mo.

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

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



July Birthdays!

Dennis Brown - 21st (KDØWSI)

Daren Nerad – 25th (KDØOPS)



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

FIELD DAY JUNE 27TH – 28TH 2026









FIELD DAY '26 SUCCESSFUL WITH 26 MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE !!!

Meet Your

NEIGHBOR

COMMUNITY NEIGHBOR

BRET KUHNS

CONNECTS WITH WORLD THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO

By Chris Howell | chris.howell@sedaliademocrat.com



Bret Kuhns, W0VK, has spent much of his life connecting with people he has never met.

The lifelong Sedalia resident is president of the Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Club, better known by its acronym, SPARK. Through amateur radio, Kuhns has spoken with people across the globe, from South Africa and Spain to Hungary, Russia and Ukraine, all from his station in central Missouri.

Born and raised in Sedalia, Kuhns graduated from Smith-Cotton High School and remains deeply rooted in his hometown. Professionally, he works for the Social Security Administration, but his passion for radio communications began long before his career.

"I've got a picture sitting on my dad's lap back in the 1980s," Kuhns recalled. "He had a large-scale CB station, and it kind of started there, the love of radio."

That early fascination grew into a lifelong hobby. In the 1990s, Kuhns' mother, who already held an amateur radio license, encouraged him to earn one as well.

"My mom encouraged me to get my ham radio license," Kuhns said. "That's where it took off."

Since then, amateur radio has become much more than a hobby. It has provided opportunities to build friendships and connections with people around the world.

Using high-frequency bands such as 20 and 40 meters, Kuhns regularly contacts operators in other countries.

In amateur radio terminology, those international contacts are known as "DX."

"I've been talking

to a guy in Hungary quite a bit lately," he said. "It's amazing, the places you can talk to."

The unpredictability of those conversations remains one of the hobby's biggest attractions.

"Honestly, it's kind of like Christmas morning," Kuhns said. "You don't know who you're going to talk to. You hear somebody on the air and strike up a conversation."

For Kuhns, those conversations serve as reminders that people around the world often have more in common than they might think.

"It really shows how small the world is," Kuhns said. "We're all just out there trying to survive, communicate and have fun. This is a great hobby."

As president of SPARK, Kuhns also helps promote amateur radio throughout the region. One of the biggest events on the club's calendar is the annual American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Field Day, a nationwide exercise designed to test operators' communication skills under challenging conditions.

During Field Day, set for June 27 through June 28, thousands of amateur radio operators take to the airwaves simultaneously, creating heavy traffic and simulating the communication challenges often encountered during emergencies. Participants compete to make as many contacts as possible while operating in less-than-ideal conditions.

Later this year, Sedalia will host an even larger gathering of radio enthusiasts. The ARRL Midwest Division Convention is scheduled for Oct. 9-10 at the Missouri State Fairgrounds. Additional information about the convention is available through SPARK's website.

Whether he's talking with a neighbor across town or an operator thousands of miles away, Kuhns continues to embrace the hobby that first captured his imagination as a child sitting beside his father's radio equipment.

For Kuhns, every transmission offers the possibility of a new friendship and a reminder that the world is often much smaller than it seems.

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

Bret Kuhns wears his Ham radio callsign, W0VK, on his hat and talks regularly with people across the globe on short wave radio. Kuhns is the president of the Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub, SPARK.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL DEMOCRAT



Read Those Specifications Carefully de (KØTV)

The weather has been awfully hot lately. I decided to go thru the collection of electric fans here to see what was there. Was very surprised at how many I had in the inventory with most needing cleaning and repair. So was it going to be less expensive to fix or simply buy new. I knew what parts I needed but decided to go shopping to get comparative prices to see if they were worth fixing.

This interesting ad caught my eye from Menards. A quick look at the specs had me wondering if I would need to call Evergy to have them put in an additional power drop. Wow! I knew it was a typo, but had to chuckle that such a popular item had not been corrected.

Specifications	
Amperage	!!! → 110 Amp
Application	Residential
Color	Light Gray
Cord Length	6 foot
Listing Agency Standards	ETL
Manufacturer Warranty	1 year
Number of Speeds	3
Oscillation	No
Overall Height	20 inch
Overall Width	20 inch
Plug Type	2 Prong
Recommended Environment	Indoor
Remote Control Included	No
Shipping Dimensions	22.50 H x 20.62 W x 4.88 D
Shipping Weight	7.6875 lbs
Voltage	110
Weight	8.9 pound



AeroSpeed 20" Box Fan

SALE PRICE
11% REBATE*

VALUE AFTER REBATE*

- ✓ Pick Up
- ✓ Delivery As soon as tomorrow
- ✓ 26 In-Stock at Sedalia

Distracted from the project at hand, I went to the jokes folder on the computer to pull out a similar ad I saw from Fry's Electronics many years ago to share.



Family Radio
Two-mile talk range,
500 megawatts of power
for camping, skiing and
keeping in touch.
No. 1010PR

\$24.97

No explanation will be necessary. Read the specs carefully and enjoy. Hi Hi

WHO-ZIT?



I grew up in a rural mid-west community. ... Had 3 horses and did a fair amount of rodeoing...Nothing special, just average.

I went to three colleges and universities to learn my occupational trade which was considered unusual to some. It could be frustrating and messy but most of the time

fulfilling. Ultimately, I achieved 3 national awards for innovations made in my field of work.

If there was a state-wide Guinness Book of Records, I would have been listed as having done 'something' first in my state.

One of my 'claims to fame' is that my uncles, Harmon and Albert, who lived in Cassville, Missouri ran moonshine over the Arkansas state line all of their lives and were never caught! Makes a family proud! Hi Hi

In regard to my family lineage, I have a strong presence of Cherokee Indian on my paternal side of the family. My great-great-great Grandfather's name was Keller. He was a wagon train master and well-known among the tribes of the Western states. He was especially close to Chief Ketoowah of the Cherokee tribe as he always asked permission to cross all Indian lands. There was a celebration whenever Keller passed through. At one particular celebration Chief Ketoowah offered his princess daughter to Keller as his bride. Keller wasn't so sure about this union but Chief placed his princess by Keller's side and it seemed there wasn't an easy way to decline this gift of his most cherished possession. Within 48 hours they were wed with great pomp and circumstance. This union produced 9 little papooses and 200 years passed and generations of offspring created more of us and that is how I came to be. The great-great-great grandchild of an Indian Chief. This story has been documented by Ancestry.com and thankfully not by my uncles who ran 'shine over the Missouri / Arkansas line. Hi Hi

WHO AM I? Contact: (WAØQCJ) with your guess!

Connies1.newsletters@gmail.com



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

Making Smoke

My first radio was a used Heath Kit. Unbeknownst to me the finals were blown. At the time, I did not know whether the radio or the microphone was the cause for a garbled transmit voice-signal on the Sunday afternoon ten-meter net. I became a Tech-Plus March 2, 1993 KB5YXD.

However, the radio worked just fine with Morse Code, therefore I was a 100% CW Ham radio Operator from the “get go.” When ask if I even owned a microphone, my answer was, “not one that works.” I did not acquire an HT until the following summer (1994). Secretly, I suspected the Heath Kit radio had a problem. Did I mention this was my first HF transceiver and antenna?

April 12, 1994, I became a General Class with the required 13 wpm test and written exam. August 9, 1994, I took the Advanced Class 50 question exam and requested a 2 by 2 call sign. I received KJ5ZW and was happy for a call sign that is very easy to send with Morse Code. I was an Advanced Class operator for 23 years until I took the Extra Class test in Warrensburg on May 6, 2017. Nick took his technician exam the same day and location, he received KE0NIL.

Now would be a good time to describe my first antenna, which was a half wave dipole. One leg was 65 feet long and attached to a tree with an insulator. The other leg was attached to the top wire of a barbed wire property boundary fence. The tree to the second leg of the dipole was about 15 feet on the other side of the fence! Oops, ... so I cut off 15 or more feet of the 12-gauge wire and stripped back the outer rubber and attached to the top wire of the fence to get a solid connection. That fence went north to the back of our property (1200 feet) and attached to an east/west fence. I just put on a smile as I remember doing the best I could with what I had.

Looking back, I am sure the SWR was through the roof. HA! Did I mention this was my first antenna? Today I am quick to help new hams build their antennas, check the SWR with my analyzer and teach them to use an antenna analyzer and/or tuner, if needed.

I did figure out that radio had blown finals like I thought. That was a push/pull circuit, which meant instead of 100 watts output, I was sending 15 or so watts (depending on the band I was using at the time) instead of the 100-watt design. Guess what?! My KB5YXD still made CW contacts all over the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Nova Scotia, and South America.

One Saturday morning I was working an operator in Colorado and my radio blew a capacitor with the sound of a shotgun and smoke came out of the radio and up to the ceiling. I pulled the power cord out of the wall socket and stared at the dead radio with one thought in mind. HA ... I was thinking "How will I get in touch with that guy to let him know I cannot get back to him?" Yup! That's what I was thinking.

I wrote a short note and put with my QSL card letting him know what happened. He responded with a QSL card and a short note as well, saying..." You had a very good fist and then nothing." When that happens, ...you never know what happened, ...Thank You for the note, I hope to work you again."

I've learned a lot about antennas and radios over the past 50 plus years. The nice thing about Ham radio is that I am still learning!!! That being said, I believe the most important part of a radio station is the antenna & antenna system. I also believe the antenna can be the least expensive component. Today, I use a balun at the feed point and an antenna analyzer before applying 100 watts to the antenna system.

Henry Ford said, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty."

Have a Blessed week,
Until next time,
73s de (KJ5ZW)
Phillip Markmann

WHEN OLD FRIENDS ARE THE BEST FRIENDS! ...AND THEY SHOW UP TO SURPRISE US AT FIELD DAY, 2026

We Welcomed Phillip Markmann (KJ5ZW) !



Richard (KE0QYA) and Phillip (KJ5ZW)



Phillip (KJ5ZW) and Brooks (KA0JWA)

What a delightful surprise to have long-time friend and newsletter contributor drop in on our Field Day Event! Phillip Markmann (KJ5ZW) was one of the founding members of CMARC, Central Missouri Amateur Radio Club), predecessor to our SPARK organization. You recognized his face from the headliner of his monthly editorial to our newsletter. He never disappoints with his timely and homespun offerings sent from his present QTH in Hawlins, Texas.

As your editor I can tell you that I was over-the-top happy to meet Phillip as we had only corresponded via text and occasional phone calls. None of us knew Phillip had planned this trip to Sedalia weeks ago and for me it was the highlight of Field Day! He had the chance to visit with many members from the past and I believe he enjoyed his time with us as we undoubtedly enjoyed his.

Next year...Field Day...[here](#), Phillip with your forever friends at SPARK!





ARRL

The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO®

New Technician Question Pool Takes Effect July 1

06/22/2026

On July 1, 2026, a new Element 2 Technician class question pool will take effect for license examinations. VECs and VEs must have new test designs available for use at exam sessions effective that date.

The newly revised pool, released in December 2025 (updated and re-released on February 19, 2026) by the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), must be in use starting July 1. There are 409 questions in this pool, down slightly from 412 in the previous pool. The pool also includes three diagrams used for some of the questions. View all current question pools on the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, advises that the ExamTools examination system will automatically switch to the new pool and exams on July 1. For ARRL-VEC VE teams using online exams at in-person sessions or for remote video-supervised sessions, no action is required.

“VE teams using paper exams must discard all older Technician tests and print new versions from [ExamTools](#),” said Somma. “ARRL-supplied 2022 series Technician exam booklets and exams generated from the old pool are valid only through June 30; after that date, they are no longer valid.” New editions of ARRL licensing publications for the 2026-2030 Technician pool, the 6th edition of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, the 9th edition of *ARRL Tech Q & A* and 11th edition of Gordon West’s Technician Class study guide will be available starting this month, for exams taken on or after July 1st.



SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS - (KAØJWA)

Another Field Day has come and gone, but it has left us with some good memories and the knowledge that if there is an emergency and we're called upon, we'll be a little more prepared to help. To those that made it to field Day, we'd like to say thanks and hope to see you again next time around. And to those of you that couldn't make it, we hope to see you next year.



QRT FOR NOW de KAØJWA es WAØQCJ

