



S.P.A.R.K.

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

OCTOBER 2026
Issue No.57



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

Connie (WAØQCJ)

Word From Our President

Bret (WØVK)

Nets / Frequencies

Monthly Birthdays

Calendar 2026

Who-Zit ?



EDITOR'S MOMENT



Text me your best caption! Winner takes home a major prize!

connies1.newsletters@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fellow SPARK Members,

What an exciting time to be a member of the Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Club!

September was a busy month, and so many good things came out of it. We enjoyed a great POTA event at Knob Noster State Park, getting together, getting on the air, and enjoying what amateur radio is all about. We also had an ARRL testing collaboration

meeting with our friends from the Warrensburg club. It's exciting to see clubs working together and finding new ways to strengthen amateur radio in our area.

And now... **SPARK-CON is just TWO WEEKS away!**

We have the incredible opportunity to host the ARRL Midwest Division Convention once again right here in Sedalia. This is a tremendous undertaking, but it's also a tremendous opportunity for our club. An event of this size doesn't happen because of one or two people — **it takes all of us.**

Whether you're helping with setup, registration, forums, vendors, hospitality, communications, or simply welcoming visitors with a smile, every one of you has an important part to play. I'm really looking forward to seeing our membership come together and show everyone what the Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Club can do!

We have a lot happening in October, and I couldn't be more excited about what's ahead.

I can't wait to see everybody at our club meeting on **October 3 at 8:30 AM**. Let's get ready for a great month and an even greater SPARK-CON!

See you there!

— *Your Club President Bret (WØVK)*

NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 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 2026

de – Brooks (KAØJWA)

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

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

11/14/2026 - Nixa ARC Hamfest - Nixa, Mo. (See attached flier for more information)



October Birthdays!

Sam Davisson – 5th - (W2SAM)

Rik Hill – 7th - (KEØIFB)

Joe Barnett 23rd – (KEØWLB)



BTW...If you don't find your birthdate announced monthly, it is because I don't know when it is ... but would LOVE to! **New members...please inform me of your birthdate by sharing to: connies1.newsletters@gmail.com or enlighten me at Klub meeting . BIG THANKS!!! 'QCJ**

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



ARRL MIDWEST DIVISION 2026 CONVENTION

SEDALIA PETTIS AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

SPARK-CON



Event Highlights:

Vendor & Exhibitors - Explore the latest in amateur radio gear and technology.

- Swap Meet - Buy, sell, and trade equipment.
- Full Seminar Schedule - Learn from expert speakers.
- License Testing - Get your amateur radio license or upgrade.
- Get On The Air Special Event Station
- Air Mobile Contacts Saturday - Get a Certificate!
- Thousands worth in Prizes - Including hourly door prizes!
- Emergency Preparedness - Hands-on demos and discussions.
- Near Space Balloon Launch - A thrilling high-altitude experiment.
- Transmitter Hunt & Antenna Clinic - Test your skills in direction-finding.
- Hamfest Dinner - Friday Night from 6:00 - 8:00 PM.
- Grand Prize Drawing - Saturday at close of show(not present to win)
- Youth STEM Presentation and Seminars
- For other convention information, see QR Code

Hotel Booking: Hotel Bothwell (660-826-5588), Best Western (660-826-6100), Holiday Inn Express (660-826-4000) have blocks of rooms for this event ask for the Spark-Con block when making reservations

Missouri State Fair Camping: Full hookups (660-530-5600)

Location:

Missouri State Fair Grounds
2503 W. 16th St. Sedalia, MO 65301

Date: 10/9/2026 & 10/10/2026

HAMFEST / Seminars / Convention

All Run Through Times Below:

12:00PM to 5:00PM Friday

8:00AM to 3:00PM Saturday

Admission Fee: \$10

Talk-in: 147.030 -OFFSET, PL 179.9

SPARK-CON.ORG

Contacts:

Bret Kuhns , WØVK

660-281-6506

w0vk@arrl.net

Richard , Camirand,

KE0QYA@yahoo.com

More information:

www.wa0sdo.org

FACEBOOK WEB PAGE



SCAN FOR MORE INFO



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

.....

7290 Traffic Net

By Phillip (KJ5ZW)

October 2026

“Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection,” - Mark Twain-

I have submitted human interest stories of non-fiction, most of which are associated to Electronics and Amateur Radio from my personal background.

My idea for this issue is to produce a technical piece that one could bite into and chew on, work their gray cells, and in the process gain knowledge or receive an idea to build “something” related to Radio electronics; whether it be an antenna, morse key, or perhaps, even a new digital mode that is new to you but, has been around for decades such as RTTY? For me it is handling of Radio Gram traffic. For some folks the digital modes are fun and Fldigi (Fast Light Digital) happens to have lots of digital modes for your “sandbox!”

I’ve been interested in the “How to” of Radio Gram for decades and decided to learn National Traffic System or in this case, local Traffic net which is the 7290Traffic Net. In this article, I have included the web site for those interested in Radio Gram sending and receiving. Lots of thought has been put into the <https://www.7290trafficnet.org> web site and it IS VERY informative. It is also an independent traffic net as well.

Some kudos for this net are: One message went to Japan. It was picked up by a commercial airplane pilot who was also a HAM operator! For me it is, RADIOGRAM via Amateur Radio, also known as Traffic and message handling. This has been on my horizon for years, in fact, well over half a century. I’ve never applied myself enough to the effort of research, study a book, or “create my own wheel” on this topic. When starting to work on something “new to me”, my normal process is to start with research and study. Then, look into my past and see what article can be created from my own past to send to Connie for the SPARK Newsletter from my background. The most important part of this process is the

learning cycle for my brain. We work our brain and it will work better for each of us. “Kinda Like” oiling a machine to maintain its smooth operation.

Anyhow the website www.7290trafficnet.org is where my training research has taken me. I’ve checked into their traffic net enough times that I have made contact with each Net Control operator at least once. Today, I can check into the 7290 traffic net with my call sign and the response will be something like, “Good morning, Phillip.”

The idea is checking into the net as often as you can (2 or 3) times each week? They will get used to your voice and recognize your call sign. They also learn what traffic messages would be in your area to deliver either in person or by telephone, etc. That helps tremendously when the band is filled with noise. During bad weather such as hurricanes or tornado WX there is a lot of Welfare pieces of traffic. Folks worried about the welfare of relatives, etc.

This net has 12 operators scheduled for each week, morning and afternoon with a lunch shutdown for one hour. Their web site even has a training link to learn the Preamble and such. Jo Anne even does on the air training twice a week for those interested.

Missouri Traffic net operators knew Dick Hunt KC0FDF, because he checked into their net quite often. The Missouri Traffic Net is 3.963 MHz LSB. The MO Traffic net runs every day starting time is, 5:45 pm daily. The MO traffic net even has a CW time starting at 7:45 pm also daily.

Until next time,

Proverbs 27:17

Phillip Markmann (KJ5ZW)

PS Their frequency is 7.290 MHz



Several Decades Ago

de Phillip Markmann (KJ5ZW)

Several decades ago, I read a short story of a man in the hospital due to a stroke. He was unresponsive until one day his family was in the room around his bed and his son was holding his hand. The man’s finger started to shake radically. After a little while, the son realized his dad was only moving one finger with a rhythm and sending Morse code to his son and the family around his bed. Today, I wish I had saved that article. It is just one of many Morse Code stories that can be relayed to other Ham operators and non-Hams as well. Truly a human-interest story.

“New is good, old is necessary” -Billy Graham-

NARCFEST 2026

NIXA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CONNECT • LEARN • COMMUNICATE



SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2026
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM



VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
252 N. NICHOLAS RD.
NIXA, MO 65714



DOORS OPEN AT 8:00 A.M.

ADMISSION OPTIONS

- REGULAR ADMISSION – \$10
- ADDITIONAL RAFFLE TICKETS – \$1 EACH
- SUPER TICKET (1 ADMISSION + 20 RAFFLE TICKETS) – \$20
- PURCHASE TABLES ONLINE:
 - > TABLE + 1 ENTRY – \$20
 - > ADDITIONAL TABLES – \$10 EACH



MORE INFORMATION:
www.nixahams.net

GRAND PRIZE

ICOM IC-7300

PROVIDED BY
NIXA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MORE PRIZES

to be announced!

COMMERCIAL VENDORS ★ FLEA MARKET ★ PRIZES ★ DEMOS ★ FUN FOR EVERYONE!



COMMERCIAL
VENDORS



ASSOCIATED
RADIO



D&L
ANTENNA



MIKE HOFFMAN
EMBROIDERY

VE TESTING 8:30 A.M.

Conducted by Rob Huelga W3LGA and
the Nixa ARC VE team members

- ✓ Food and Drink on-site
- ✓ Talk In: Southwest Missouri Linked Repeater System
- ✓ Get more info at <https://nixahams.net/resources/Repeaters>
select SMLRS Filter

FOR SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

Email: ke6gae@nixahams.net

★ SUPPORTING AMATEUR RADIO IN OUR COMMUNITY! ★



WHO-ZIT?

No, I'm not a skydiver, but I spent some time up in the air one particular field day! Contrary to all things reasonable or safety conscious, another ham and I lugged 2-meter sideband equipment up to the top of a 125-foot water tower and worked our FD contacts! Needless to say, signals were stellar and we were the stars of the day. Don't know that I'd do it again!

However, here's an alternative, and be it safer plan, called the 'Hook Up To Anything' technique.

Rather than physically sitting on top of a water tower, portable ham operators often use the massive steel structure of a water tower as their antenna!

In the portable amateur radio community, operators using low-powers (QRP) setups sometimes connect to a local steel water tower using a specialized clamp system. Utilizing that clamp system, connected to a portable radio (like a Xiegu G90), they will clamp a wire directly to one of the enormous steel girders or the base structure of a water tower. The massive amount of connected steel acts as a ground plane or an improvised antenna radiator. Signals run from the radio, through a coax cable, and directly up the tower structure, allowing operators to hit distant repeaters or make high-frequency contacts from the ground.

So, all that being said, who *didn't* choose the *safer plan* but experienced the thrill of operating among the sparrows?

WHO AM I ?

Contact: (WA0QCJ) with your guess! Connies1.newsletters@gmail.com



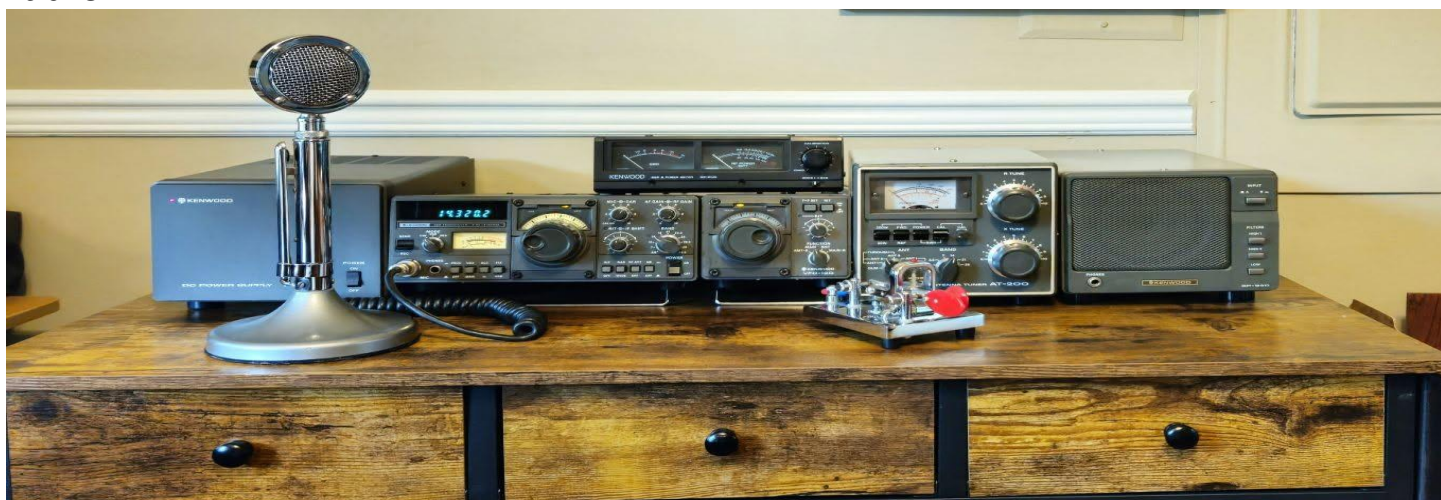
Harry, (KØTV), caught Bret sporting his 'Grampa' glasses! Hi Hi

WHY WE LOVE WHAT WE DO!

de Rick Pranitis (K9LCY)

Ham Radio Operators

What I love about ham radio is that it doesn't matter who you are, how old you are, or young, or what your socio-economic standing is, or your job, or your gender, or your nationality, or your race, or what you do or did for a living, or how much education you have, or who you know, you can still find people that will appreciate you and treat you like an equal. We are called ham radio operators. It is not dependent on how much equipment we have or how old it is. It matters not what language we speak when off the radio. The size and location make no difference. We are joined together with others from everywhere on our planet by a microphone or a key and a love of radio. I have friends who treat me good, and I treat them good. We are not likely to meet in person, or have anything else in common. We are united by radio. If we could apply the same to everything and everybody in life, we would have no need for war or a reason to hate. I get the same excitement today as I did when I had my first ham radio experience as a teenager in 1962. How could we not love ham radio?



(Ed. Note) This came across my FB feed and was too good not to share. I hope this is the same way you feel about your hobby now...like back when you were a newbie. To avoid becoming world-weary by life, shift your mindset and embrace what's new to *you* within our hobby. Come to breakfast at Clara's with us on Friday morning! Throw a CQ out there! Answer a stray CQ!...You might be a new operator's first contact! I have been...it's a GREAT feeling! Attend a POTA event! Check in on the Sunday evening net at 7:30 and share a weekend experience with the rest of us! Certainly...make time one day a month to attend your SPARK meeting! We are not a community of one...It takes all of us to make SPARK work. Don't let your chair be setting empty on October 3rd. Be in it and be a part. These are my own personal feelings as your editor. Please, do make them yours as well...'cause you know I'm right!

From My Shack to Yours - 73 de (WA0QCJ)

SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS - (KAØJWA)

UNLICENSED OPERATOR ARRESTED



A man arrested on allegations he used amateur radio to threaten to kill members of a local amateur radio club has been released on bail from the Bexar County Texas Jail. Twenty-nine-year-old John David Watkins III, posted a \$4,000 bond and was freed before noon Sunday. This after his having been taken into custody the previous night on two counts of making terroristic threats. An arrest affidavit states Watkins, known on radio frequencies as “White Noise,” was creating interference and illegally transmitting without having the required radio operator license. A member of a radio club met with Watkins

recently and told him to stop or the group would report him to the Federal Communications Commission. Officials said that the next day Watkins allegedly made threats against the person who visited him and against other members of the club, saying he would kill them with an AK-47 rifle. These threats were reported to the police who provided security at the club's next meeting. Note to those who dare interfere with US! We will hunt you down like the dirty dogs you are!

73! de (KAØJWA)

IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO HALLOWEEN!

Of Holidays throughout the year,
so many we hold near and dear.

Above the rest one trumps the scene.

Oh, that would be, YES...Halloween!

The day of witches' blackened hats,
well-tuned brooms and brazen bats.

Not one Easter jelly bean.

You bet it is! It's Halloween!



A gaggle of ghouls and ghosts prevail.

Their faces cast a ghastly pale.

No hint of July 4th sunscreen,

Stand up and cheer, It's Halloween!

Children prowl with opened sacks,

Begging for high-carb sweetened snacks.

"NO VALENTINES!" you'll hear them scream!

"It's not February, it's Halloween!"

Door bells ring with a "Trick or Treat."

"Give us something good to eat!"

...or we'll become your darkest dream."

"Give up the goods, it's Halloween!"

Charlie Brown and his Great Punkin',

Movie horror spooks, heads shrunk.

No April Fool pranks catchin' steam,

Of course not, 'cause it's Halloween!

Leaf storms swirl in crisp fall air.

Cobwebs catchin' in your hair.

New Year promises, pipe dreams.

Forget them all, it's Halloween!

Orange and black the candy's stacked,

last minute shoppers to attract.

Parents gaze at ransacked shelves.

Two isles over it's green-clad elves!



Tinsel sparkle, strings of lights,
streaming garland, what a sight!
Santa sleighs and mechanical toys,
gifts to buy for girls and boys?

I'm so confused, I can't recall.
My brain it feels so very small.
Why'd I come here? What's the scheme?
This holiday's just one bad dream!

I'm on a mission for Milk Duds and Reese's,
It's sweets that I crave in bits or in pieces
It's sure not a Christmas evergreen.
I'm here for the candy! it's Halloween!

de Connie Koch – (WAØQCJ)



QRT FOR NOW de KAØJWA es WAØQCJ

