

S.P.A.R.K.

NOVEMBER 2026
Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub **Issue No.58**

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)

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Who-Zit ?

EDITOR'S MOMENT



When I count my blessings…you are among them.

de - WAØQCJ

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, Membership!

What a great couple of days we had hosting the ARRL Midwest Division Convention right here in Sedalia! Now that we've had a little time to catch our breath, I want to take a moment to say how proud I am of this club and what we accomplished together.

I've personally heard so many positive comments about the convention, and it's been wonderful seeing the great feedback being shared across the web as well. Every aspect of the event came together successfully, and that doesn't happen by accident. It takes planning, hard work, teamwork, and a membership willing to roll up its sleeves and get things done.

To everyone who showed up, volunteered, helped a vendor, answered a question, set up a table, or contributed in any way, **THANK YOU!** You were noticed, your efforts made a difference, and we simply could not have done this without you. You should all be proud of what we accomplished together!

And speaking of tying up loose ends, we finally recovered our high-altitude balloon payload this past Sunday after it came to rest in a tree. A huge thank-you to Chris from Missouri Arborist Company for making that climb look so smooth and bringing everything down safely. It was the final piece of the puzzle, and now we can officially say that every aspect of the convention has been wrapped up successfully!

As we roll into November, I'm looking forward to Richard's annual **Turkey Trot**. I've already been hearing some great things from him about what's in store, and I'm excited to see what he has planned for us this year.

In the meantime, I hope everyone gets out and enjoys this wonderful fall weather while it lasts. Take advantage of the sunshine, get on the air, try something new, and enjoy the season with family and friends.

I'm proud to be part of this club and grateful to be your president. Thank you all for making the Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub something special.

73! Your Club President Bret (WØVK)

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NEXT MEETING – November 7th - 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

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HAMFEST CALENDAR 2026
de – Brooks (KAØJWA)

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

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November Birthdays!



Marci Withers 14 – - (KFØHYQ)

Melissa Marsh – 15th – (KFØMEE)

David Roberts – 30th -(WØDR)

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

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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

SPARK-CON 2026, ARRL Midwest Division Convention October 9–10, 2026















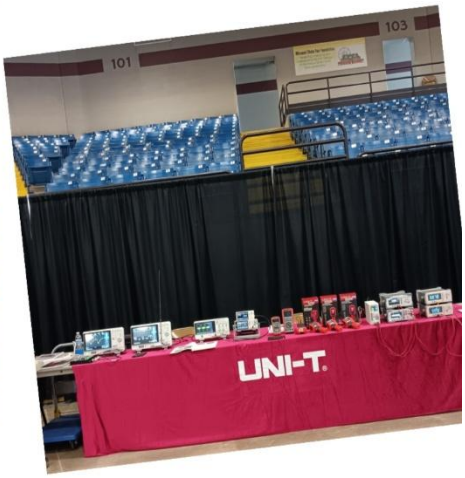







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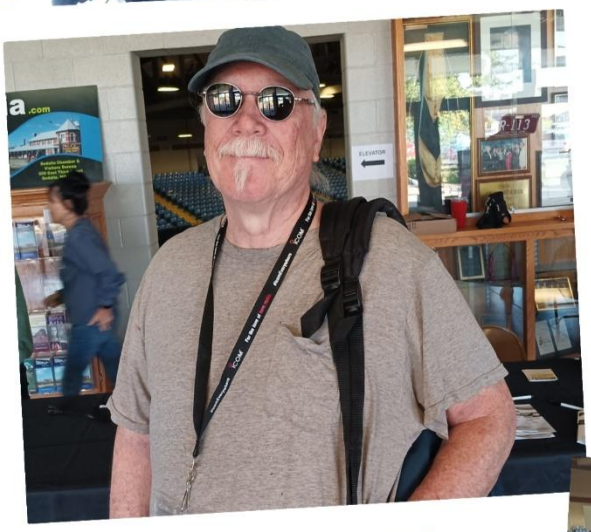

MIDLAND




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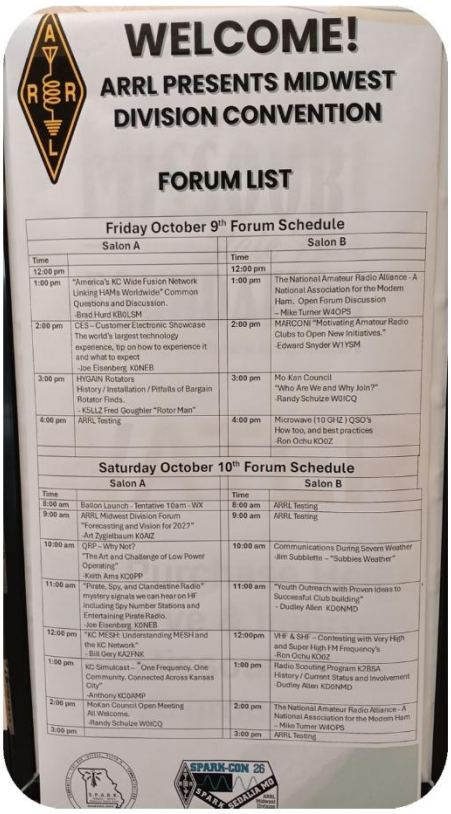







ARRL MIDWEST DIVISION 2026 CONVENTION
GRAND PRIZES BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
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SPEAKERS
HAM RADIO CLOCKS
DC POWER HUBS
SHIRTS, HATS, BOOKS
(25) $20.00 GIGAPARTS GIFT CARDS


MIKE
KEØUIO


WELCOME!
ARRL PRESENTS MIDWEST DIVISION CONVENTION
FORUM LIST
Friday October 9th Forum Schedule
Salon A
Salon B
Time
12:00 pm
1:00 pm "America's KC Wide Fusion Network Linking HAMs Worldwide" Common Questions and Discussion. -Brad Hurd KB0LSM
1:00 pm The National Amateur Radio Alliance - A National Association for the Modern Ham. Open Forum Discussion – Mike Turner W4OPS
2:00 pm CES – Customer Electronic Showcase The world's largest technology experience, tip on how to experience it and what to expect -Joe Eisenberg K0NEB
2:00 pm MARCONI "Motivating Amateur Radio Clubs to Open New Initiatives." -Edward Snyder W1YSM
3:00 pm HYGAIN Rotators History / Installation / Pitfalls of Bargain Rotator Finds. - K5LLZ Fred Goughler "Rotor Man"
3:00 pm Mo-Kan Council "Who Are We and Why Join?" -Randy Schulze W0ICQ
4:00 pm ARRL Testing
4:00 pm Microwave (10 GHZ) QSO's How too, and best practices -Ron Ochu KO0Z
Saturday October 10th Forum Schedule
Salon A
Salon B
8:00 am Balloon Launch - Tentative 10am - WX
8:00 am ARRL Testing
9:00 am ARRL Midwest Division Forum "Forecasting and Vision for 2027" -Art Zygielbaum K0AIZ
9:00 am ARRL Testing
10:00 am QRP - Why Not? "The Art and Challenge of Low Power Operating" -Keith Ams KD0PP
10:00 am Communications During Severe Weather -Jim Subblette – "Subbies Weather"
11:00 am "Pirate, Spy, and Clandestine Radio" mystery signals we can hear on HF including Spy Number Stations and Entertaining Pirate Radio. -Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB
11:00 am "Youth Outreach with Proven Ideas to Successful Club Building" - Dudley Allen KD0NMD
12:00 pm "KC MESH: Understanding MESH and the KC Network" - Bill Gery KA2FNK
12:00pm VHF & SHF – Contesting with Very High and Super High FM Frequency's -Ron Ochu K0OZ
1:00 pm KC Simulcast – " One Frequency, One Community. Connected Across Kansas City" -Anthony KC0AMP
1:00 pm Radio Scouting Program K2BSA History / Current Status and Involvement -Dudley Allen KD0NMD
2:00 pm MoKan Council Open Meeting All Welcome. -Randy Schulze W0ICQ
2:00 pm The National Amateur Radio Alliance - A National Association for the Modern Ham - Mike Turner W4OPS
3:00 pm
3:00 pm ARRL Testing
SPARK-CON 26


Johnson County, Mo
ARES




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Ham radio convention launches balloon above Sedalia

By Chris Howell
chris.howell@
sedaliademocrat.com

A high-altitude balloon launched from the Missouri State Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 10, climbed more than 110,000 feet into the atmosphere before bursting and deploying a parachute, sending its payload drifting into Cooper County, where it remains suspended in a tree about 75 feet above the ground.

Bret Kuhns, president of the Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Club and chairman of the event, said the balloon launch was part of the American Radio Relay League Midwest Division Convention hosted by the club Oct. 9-10 at the fairgrounds.

The convention brought together amateur radio enthusiasts from Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas to share their interest in ham radio and its applications.

On Friday, Oct. 9, the club operated a special event station that made more than 100 contacts across the United States in five hours, Kuhns said.

The following morning, the club partnered with the Civil Air Patrol and the University of Missouri's Missouri S&T campus in Rolla to coordinate the balloon launch.

The balloon lifted off from the parking lot near the Mathewson Exhibition Center at approximately 10 a.m. Saturday. It reached an altitude of 110,586 feet in about an hour, Kuhns said.

A typical commercial airliner flies at about 30,000 to 40,000 feet, putting the balloon's peak altitude at more than twice that height and approximately 21 miles above the ground.

"We maximized the capacity of helium in the balloon because we certainly wanted to burst as soon as possible," Kuhns said. "We don't want it to get too high or drift too far, because then that makes the retrieval a lot harder."

As the balloon climbed, its tracking equipment allowed organizers to monitor its altitude and movement. At times, the balloon traveled horizontally at about 24 mph while continuing to ascend rapidly.

When it reached its maximum altitude, the balloon burst and deployed a parachute. The payload descended into Pettis County before drifting across the county line into Cooper County.

Civil Air Patrol cadets have located the payload in a tree near Pilot Grove, Kuhns said. Organizers were working on arrangements to retrieve it.

The payload included a camera, multiple tracking devices and experimental projects assembled by Civil Air Patrol cadets. The experiments are intended to help the cadets study how extreme altitude and cold temperatures affect different materials and objects.

Kuhns said he did not yet know precisely what experiments the cadets included this year because the payload had not been recovered.

Last year, the cadets sent yeast aloft to examine whether it retained the same properties after exposure to the high-altitude environment.



A balloon launched Saturday at the ARRL Midwest Convention, SPARK-Con 26 soared over 21 miles up before bursting and dropping into a tree in a nearby county. PHOTO COURTESY OF BRET KUHNS

The launch also provided an opportunity for amateur radio operators to put their tracking skills to use.

Club members used directional antennas and mobile radios to help follow the balloon and determine where it landed. Three different types of tracking devices were included as backups to improve the chances of recovering the payload.

The equipment faces difficult conditions at extreme altitude, including temperatures well below freezing, Kuhns said. The tracking devices are also expensive, making recovery important to the club.

"It's successful with the launch," Kuhns said. "But it's, I wouldn't call it a fully successful event until we retrieve the payload."

In addition to the tracking equipment, organizers want to return the Civil Air Patrol cadets' experiments so they can examine the results.

The club plans to share photographs and a summary of the launch and recovery on its Spark-Con Facebook page as more information becomes available.

For Kuhns and the participating organizations, the launch demonstrated the technical capabilities of amateur radio while giving the cadets a chance to conduct experiments in an environment far beyond ordinary reach.

The balloon reached its intended altitude and its tracking systems helped organizers locate the payload. The remaining challenge is bringing the equipment safely back to the ground.

Kuhns thanked the team of over 30 people for their help in the launch and hopeful recovery.

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146

EDUCATIONAL TUTORIAL

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY SELL RAFFLE TICKETS AT THE ARRL MIDWEST DIVISION CONVENTION

de Connie (WAØQCJ)

There must be a method to the madness of selling literally hundreds of raffle tickets over a 48 hour period of time. After a successful run at the registration table, I am pleased to share this bit of wisdom for future detainees who are assigned this task.

First…be personable… Smile a lot…and practice your best 'pitch' for immediate success. This is how it's done!

Guest steps up to the Registration and Admission table and pulls out wallet with LOTS of bills on a mission to register. During the cash transaction, I…being the aggressive, yet personable, raffle ticket hawker, immediately grab the guest's attention with one of three ice-breakers, all of which have been most effective garnering a successful sale!

#1 "Sir, would you care to buy some raffle tickets along with your admission?" Upon making eye contact you continue. "You know, the appropriate response is, "Yes, Miss Connie, I would *love* to buy 25 raffle tickets from you!"…and the deal is done!

… then there is the second sure fire method

#2 "Sir, would you care to buy some raffle tickets along with your admission?" Once again eye contact is key to a successful transaction. "You realize sir, that you have two choices here."… "You can either buy these raffle tickets from me today…or take me to prom in the spring!"

… that one definitely gets the guest's wife's attention!

#3 "Sir, would you care to buy some raffle tickets with your admission?" …*continuing*… "I might add that your investment in these raffle tickets will greatly benefit and secure the purchase of a killer red dress for myself!" "How many tickets would you like?"



…and you thought I was kidding! Hi Hi

-de 'QCJ-

CHS TURKEY TROT



SAVE THE DATE!

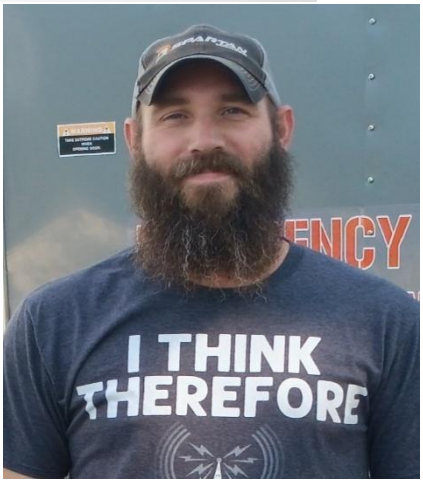
The CHS Turkey Trot in Sedalia, MO is scheduled for **Thursday, November 26th**…**Thanksgiving Day.** This annual event features multiple races, including a 5K run/walk, a 1 Mile run/walk, and a Gobbler Dash for children. All events will start at the County Distributing/Budweiser building. SPARK volunteers will be posted along the run/walk route for the safety of the participants. The organizers appreciate our participation in their event. Times and additional information will be discussed at the November meeting.

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(W1ØTW)



(KJ4UVS)

David Marsh (W1OTW) recently upgraded to Amateur Extra Class and Tony Brumfield (KJ4UVS) to General! We congratulate them as they were two of our first members to test under the new on-line FCC requirements and proved that it can actually be done! Hi Hi Congrats Dave and Tony!





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

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In 2012 on one fall morning, I sat observing a brush pile in the yard. It inspired me to write the following.

Fall Morning in Missouri

A thin soft blanket covers the ground,
All the world is white.
A mixture of hydrogen, oxygen and nitrate,
And nutrients needed for growth is bright.
A squirrel had left its tracks,
Among the leaves it dug,
A rabbit also, moving about,
Attack from above!
A hawk looking for its meal,
Accordance to natures call,
A strike was missed,
Access denied.
A second try while rabbit runs,
Across the field to hide,
A brush pile is his safe,
Another attempt before all's lost.
A turn here... And a turn there,
A turn with the article of faith,
Another turn and it's too late.
A hawk, a rabbit, to which was late?
Another hunt, another day?
A rabbit lost to a bird of prey?

By Phillip Markmann, (KJ5ZW)

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

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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?

I wasn't born in Missouri, but in the state some call the "Switzerland " of the United States.

I served 9 years in the US military and dodged Iraqi Scud missiles during Operation Desert Storm.

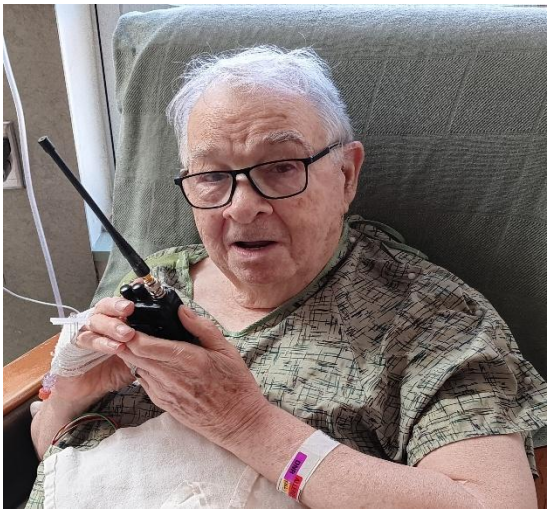
After my military service, I worked for the US Department of Justice and supervised serial killers, terrorists, and drug lords at a US Penitentiary.

Got into HAM radio late in life about 2014.

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

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WHEN BEING A HAM REALLY COMES IN HAM DANDY!



Steve Demoss (WAØWUY) recently found it pretty nifty to have his 2-Meter HT in hand when admitted to Bothwell Hospital for a short stay. He made several contacts with the outer world which brought smiles to all our faces, and most importantly to his own. It was good for him to check in with his HAM family once again.

Steve has had some mobility issues and is now in rehab in Tipton, Missouri. His 5 Watt HT won't make the trip to the Sedalia repeater from there, but his wife, Carol, says he's certainly open to visitors and cards! The address is:

Tipton Oak Manor 601 W. Morgan Tipton, Missouri 65081

de – (WAØQCJ)

SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS - (KAØJWA)





QRT FOR NOW de KAØJWA es WAØQCJ