

## May 2018 Newsletter

### Sunspots Vanishing Faster than Expected

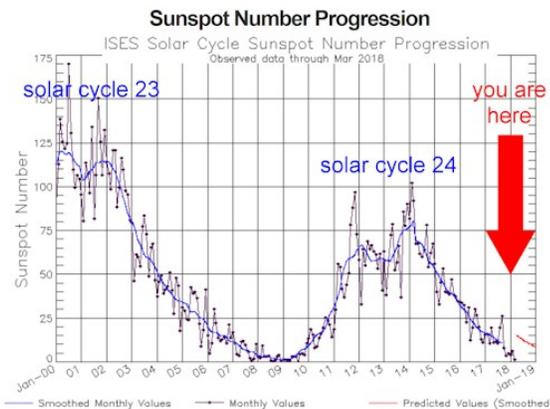
MAY 1, 2018 / DR.TONY PHILLIPS Spaceweather.com

<https://spaceweatherarchive.com/2018/05/01/sunspots-vanishing-faster-than-expected/>

Sunspots are becoming scarce. Very scarce. So far in 2018 the sun has been blank almost 60% of the time, with whole weeks going by without sunspots.

The fact that sunspots are vanishing comes as no surprise. Forecasters have been saying for years that this would happen as the current solar cycle ("solar cycle 24") comes to an end. The surprise is how fast.

"Solar cycle 24 is declining more quickly than forecast," announced NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center on April 26th. This plot shows observed sunspot numbers in blue vs. the official forecast in red:



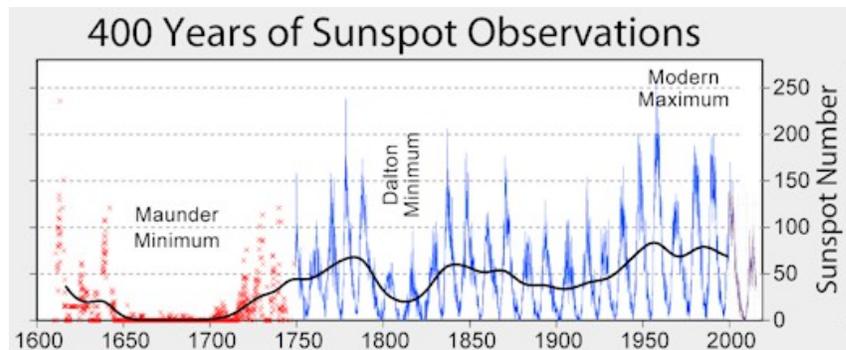
"The smoothed, predicted sunspot number for April-May 2018 is about 15," says NOAA. "However, the actual monthly values have been [significantly] lower."

"Official" forecasts of the solar cycle come from NOAA's Solar Cycle Prediction Panel—a group of experts from NOAA, NASA, the US Air Force, universities and other research organizations. They have been convening at intervals since 1989 to predict the timing and intensity of Solar Max. The problem is, no one really knows how to predict the solar cycle. The most recent iteration of the panel in 2006-2008 compared 54 different methods ranging from empirical extrapolations of historical data to

cutting-edge supercomputer models of the sun's magnetic dynamo. None fully described what is happening now.

It's important to note that solar minimum is a normal part of the sunspot cycle. Sunspots have been disappearing (or nearly so) every ~11 years since 1843 when German astronomer Samuel Heinrich Schwabe discovered the periodic nature of solar activity. Sometimes they go away for decades, as happened during the Maunder Minimum of the 17th century. We've seen it all before. Or have we.?

Researchers are keeping a wary eye on the sun now because of what happened the last time sunspots disappeared. The solar minimum of 2008-2009 was unusually deep. The sun set Space Age records for low sunspot number, weak solar wind, and depressed solar irradiance. When the sun finally woke up a few years



later, it seemed to have "solar minimum hangover." The bounce-back Solar Max of 2012-2015 was the weakest solar maximum of the Space Age, prompting some to wonder if solar activity is entering a phase of sustained quiet. The faster-than-expected decline of the sunspot cycle now may support that idea.

Newcomers to the field are often surprised to learn that a lot happens during solar minimum: The sun dims, albeit slightly. NASA recently launched a new sensor (TSIS-1) to the International Space Station to monitor this effect. With less extreme UV radiation coming from the sun, Earth's upper atmosphere cools and shrinks. This allows space junk to accumulate in low Earth orbit.

The most important change, however, may be the increase in cosmic rays. Flagging solar wind pressure during solar minimum allows cosmic rays from deep space to penetrate the inner solar system. Right now, space weather balloons and NASA spacecraft are measuring an uptick in radiation due to this effect. Cosmic rays may alter the chemistry of Earth's upper atmosphere, trigger lightning, and seed clouds.

Air travelers are affected, too. It is well known that cosmic rays penetrate airplanes. Passengers on long commercial flights receive doses similar to dental X-rays during a single trip, while pilots have been classified as occupational radiation workers by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). Ongoing measurements by Spaceweather.com and Earth to Sky Calculus show that dose rates at cruising altitudes of 35,000 feet are currently ~40 times greater than on the ground below, values which could increase as the solar cycle wanes.

Solar minimum is just getting started. Stay tuned for updates.

### **FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Stepping Down**

FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn is leaving the Commission. She announced at the Commission's April 17 meeting that it would be her last as a commissioner. She plans to leave before the Commission's next scheduled meeting on May 10.



Following her 2013 appointment by President Barack Obama, Clyburn served as acting FCC chair, the first woman to head the agency. A Democrat, she is currently serving a second term.



*Mignon Clyburn*

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai congratulated Clyburn on "her distinguished tenure at the FCC," calling her "a tremendous leader and a committed public servant."

The other Democrat on the FCC, Jessica Rosenworcel, said, "Commissioner Clyburn is a dynamo. She represents the best of public service. I am proud to call her both a colleague and a friend."

The majority of the five-member Commission represents the political party of the president. According to [POLITICO](#), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has already recommended to the White House Geoffrey Starks, an assistant chief in the FCC Enforcement Bureau, to nominate for Clyburn's seat.

### **Amateur Radio Case Attracts Attention of FCC Commissioner**

released on April 26, O'Rielly said he approved the Commission's opinion that Crowell's appeal was justifiably denied, but he expressed concern that the ALJ "took unnecessary actions" in Crowell's case and in another unrelated proceeding.

"On a larger scale, complaints about the ALJ process are not isolated incidents, but paint a picture of questionable decisions coupled with an elevated level of inefficiency," O'Rielly said in comments

attached to the MO&O. "It seems to me that, too often, the Commission has had to reverse the decisions of the ALJ or address one ALJ decision or another. This reality only reaffirms my call to consider eliminating the ALJ process altogether."

It has been 10 years since the FCC set Crowell's license renewal application for hearing, and nearly as long since Crowell requested disqualification of the ALJ assigned to his case. Crowell's license renewal hearing centered on whether he had violated FCC Part 97 rules by intentionally interfering with and/or otherwise interrupting radio communications, transmitting one-way communications, indecent language, and music, and whether he is qualified to be and remain a Commission licensee and have his renewal application granted.



*FCC Commissioner  
Michael O'Rielly*

In 2016, the FCC imposed a \$25,000 fine on Crowell for intentionally interfering with the transmissions of other radio amateurs and transmitting prohibited communications, including music. The penalty included "an upward adjustment reflecting Mr. Crowell's decision to continue his misconduct after being warned that his actions violated the Communications Act and the Commission's rules," the FCC said at the time.

"Mr. Crowell does not deny that he made the transmissions that prompted the fine, but argued, in large part, that those transmissions were protected by the First Amendment," the Forfeiture Order said.

The FCC concluded in this month's MO&O, "We have examined Crowell's claims of bias in accordance with our precedent, a task made more difficult because Crowell provides virtually no detailed factual support or references to the record for his allegations."

Crowell's license, which expired in 2007, has not been renewed, but Crowell may continue to operate while his renewal application is pending.

### **Links for Kansas Hams!**

ARRL	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
ARRL KS Section News Page	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/kansas">http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/kansas</a>
ARRL Midwest Director's Newsletter	<a href="http://www.arrlmidwest.org/newsletter/newsletter.pdf">http://www.arrlmidwest.org/newsletter/newsletter.pdf</a>
Kansas Section Pages and KAR's	<a href="http://ksarrl.org/">http://ksarrl.org/</a>
S. A. T. E. R. N.	<a href="http://www.salarmymokan.org">http://www.salarmymokan.org</a>
Kansas QSO Party	<a href="http://ksqsoparty.org">http://ksqsoparty.org</a>
Newton ARC	<a href="http://newtonarc.org/">http://newtonarc.org/</a>
Wichita ARC	<a href="http://www.warc1.org">http://www.warc1.org</a>
Ensor Museum	<a href="http://www.ensorparkandmuseum.org/">http://www.ensorparkandmuseum.org/</a>
Wichita NWS SKYWARN	<a href="http://ict-skywarn.org">http://ict-skywarn.org</a>
Kansas ARES Pages	<a href="http://ksarrl.org/ares">http://ksarrl.org/ares</a>
Wheat State Wireless Association	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/WS0WA/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/WS0WA/</a>
Sand Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc	<a href="http://www.SandhillsARC.com">http://www.SandhillsARC.com</a>
Jarbalo Amateur Radio Association	<a href="http://jara.signaleer.us">http://jara.signaleer.us</a>

# ARRL Midwest Director Roderick K. Blocksome KØDAS

The ARRL Midwest Division August 2017 Newsletter is now available on the Division's Web page. Here's the direct link:

<http://www.arrlmidwest.org/newsletter/newsletter.pdf>

This link always takes you to the current month's newsletter. If this month's newsletter doesn't open, try refreshing the page or clearing your browser's cache, in case your browser is loading a copy of a previous newsletter. Previous newsletters are available at:

<http://www.arrlmidwest.org/newsletter.html>

Highlights this month are:

- W0TT Operates Curacao Half-Century CQWW Celebration
- NASA on the Air (NOTA) Special Event – NASA's 60th Birthday
- Smoke Detector Installation
- 2018 ARRL Midwest Division Convention – "Save the Date"
- Midwest Division ARRL Hamfests & Conventions
- Midwest Division Special Event Stations

Thanks and 73's,  
ARRL Midwest Division Director:  
Roderick K Blocksome, KØDAS  
[k0das@arrl.org](mailto:k0das@arrl.org)



## S.A.T.E.R.N.

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network

Latest W MO/KS Newsletter

<http://ksarrl.org/satern>



Supporting Our Veterans - Honorably Discharged  
S\*M\*A\*R\*T - Special Military Active Retired Travel Club

*KCONDG Sherwin  
or SARG; EX-K102 1960 to 1987  
or TOP, 1SG ; Army USAR, Retired 1951 to 1987 --- final discharge 1994*

God Bless those who have served this great country AMERICA  
Proud Military Veteran

SEEING THE COUNTRY WE DEFEND

SHERWIN & DOROTHY STIELOW

### **Santa Fe Trail Founding Special Event**

On May 19th & 20th we are again doing the William Becknell Santa Fe Trail special event station. Last year in May and September we set up on-the-trail in Overland Park a special event station commemorating the upcoming founding of the Santa Fe Trail 197 years ago in September 1821

We set up in Strang Park located behind the Johnson County Overland Park Main Library on Santa Fe & 87th Terrace and Farley. This location is a stopping point and staging area for the wagons coming out of Independence and Westport. We set up on Friday night some antennas in the fields in the park and on Saturday at 7am we set up the remote station in a tent. We are on the air by 9am and work as the operators are available from then to 4pm on Sunday. Last year we were only down from 2am till about 8am Sunday morning.



The objective is to tell the world of the founding of the Santa Fe Trail and its history over the years from 1821 till around the early 1880's. Like other special event stations we are looking to expand the number of stations along the trail for the event. Starting in Franklin, Mo. just across the river from Boonville through Independence, Westport, Overland Park, Olathe and Westward across Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico.

If you look at a Trail map and you are located on or near the trail we would like you to participate. We are looking for individuals to help operate not only the station here in Overland Park but this year and in coming years we want to have more remote stations set up on the trail. My simple objective is this. " If your butt is in the wagon rut then you are in the right location.." There are dozens of places along the trail where it is easily accessible to be sitting on/near the trail and have room to set up some kind of an antenna. Even working out of your car or van sitting at a historic location is good. We want to work the bands from 15m-80m and in any mode available at the time the operator's can operate. Operation from 9am to around 9pm on Saturday and 9am - 4pm on Sunday is ideal, however that will be up to the individuals who volunteer to work. Whether they be a ham club in the area of the trail or an individual or small group willing to help we are just looking for lots of remote sites.

All locations will be listed on our web site at <http://wb0sft.org> with the location, call sign, frequencies and approximate times the stations are on the air. Coordination will take place with our web master and real time posting updates will help the world find us. We are listed in the May QST under Special Event Stations and numerous other listings are out there telling people we are doing the event. Thanks to Larry Staples here on Larry's List for help there too.

So please feel free to visit the web site, look over the information there and contact me if you would like to help work a station somewhere. This is going to be a huge event on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 as the world and U.S. will be commemorating the Bi-Centennial of the founding of the trail. We want to be well established by then and work up to having 10 or more stations on-the-air some where year before that.

We thank you for your support helping or even calling in during the event.

The William Becknell Heritage Days Amateur Radio Club. WB0SFT

Steve Everley President. KC0VYS === WB0SFT - Trustee

email to: [wb0sft@gmail.com](mailto:wb0sft@gmail.com)

913-549-6703 *Text me before calling so I know your not some robot...GBG*



## ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service



Complete list of ECs and a printable State ARES map <http://ksarrl.org/ares/>

<http://ksarrl.org/ares/alphaks.php/>

<http://ksarrl.org/distks.php>

## AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

### MONTHLY EC REPORT

**◆ Zone 4A – Brian KC0BS**

#### APRIL 2018 MONTHLY ARES REPORT TO DEC & SEC

Total of ACTIVE ARES members: 150 +0

Local Net Name: Johnson County ARES

Emergency Coordinator = Brian Short KC0BS 913-638-7373

Alternate Emergency Coordinator, Recruiting = Jim Andera K0NK 913-884-6613

Assistant Emergency Coordinators:

Herb Fiddick - ECS Liaison

George McCarville WB0CNK - Training, Drills

Matt May KC4WCG - IDs, MECC

Bill Gery KA2FNK - Recruiting, Technology

Darren Martin N0MZW - Net Manager

Brad Kelsey KU0FAN – Membership

Jesse Gonzalez KE0ECS – CERT

Chuck Simpson KC0NUG - Rapid Response

Jim Andera K0NK - KCHEART

NTS liaison is maintained with the KS SSB Net:

Jim Andera K0NK

Terry Reim WA0DTH

George McCarville WB0CNK

Jim Cordill KI0BK

Debbie Britain AB0UY

Rich Britain N0ENO

Wretha Galeener KC0HHO

Net Sessions: 40

QNI: 272

QTC: 0

4 nets = 2 Meter Voice

4 nets = 2 Meter SATERN Voice

4 nets = CW

4 nets = 6 Meter

4 nets = 2 Meter Voice Simplex

4 nets = PSK 31 SATERN

4 nets = APRS Packet

4 nets = 70CM

4 nets = 1.25 Meter

4 nets = SATERN 80 meter SSB

Report prepared by:

Darren Martin NOMZW

Johnson County Kansas

◆ **Zone 6A, E & G – Rod KØEQH**

Kansas ARES Zones 6A, E & G Net Report April 2018

Total Nets.....4

Total QNI.....27

Total QTC.....1 (net report)

Stations participating: WBØQYA, NØOXQ, NØOMC, KØEQH, ACØE, KDØTWO, KGØVA, NØKQX

Alt NCS .... NØOMC

Rod, KØEQH

NCS

### **Southwest Kansas Activities**

Several enjoyed a picnic hosted by the Western Kansas ARC, at Matt's, KDØEZX, in Tribune, on April 28. (was also Matt's birthday!)

Good food and friends from several states. A interesting program on digital HF operation, FT-8, by Nate, KEØLBI, was well received.

Field Day 2018 will be a joint effort of the Sand Hills ARC and Western Kansas ARC to be held in Tribune, KS. Location will be at Matt, KDØEZX contest station QTH. All welcome! A great meal will be served Saturday evening.

Rod, KØEQH

### **Digital Voice Modes, a Brief Overview from N0GSG**

1. The dominant modes in the Kansas City area are Fusion (C4FM - Yaesu proprietary standard) and DMR (ETSI - European commercial standard, used worldwide). D-STAR (developed by JARL - Japan Amateur Radio League) is also active, but doesn't have the penetration into our area that Fusion and DMR have. P25, another commercial standard, is not yet in amateur use in Kansas City as far as I know.

2. Different parts of the country have differing concentrations of these modes. I think this is largely due to chance and the fickle nature of the amateur technology adoption process.
3. The voice quality is roughly equivalent between all of these digital modes. That's because they all use the same CODEC. The CODEC, or coder-decoder, is the device/software that converts analog voice to a compressed digital data stream for transmission, and reverses the process to recover the analog voice signal during receive).
4. Each mode has differing strengths and weaknesses. These can be viewed through several lenses: (a) Mobile unit cost; (b) Mobile unit ease of operation; (c) Utility value; (d) System characteristics; as well as others.

### **Fusion:**

(a) Mobile Unit Cost: Mobile units are somewhat more expensive than equivalent FM gear. The basic unit, the FTM-3207DR, covers 70cm only and costs about \$180. (There's also a VHF version of this radio.) The basic dual-band mobile unit, the FTM-100, covers both 2m and 70cm with single receive, and cost about \$300. The super-duper FTM-400 (dual band, color remote touch screen display, hot-rod RF front end design [six separate front ends for EACH receiver to fully cover 2m/70cm plus coverage from 108-999 MHz!]. Ouch, this radio costs about \$600, but it's a very good performer. Handhelds for Fusion start around \$200 (FT-70D, dual band).

(b) Ease of Operation: The Yaesu Fusion radios are amateur radios at heart, so they can be operated just like other ham radios. You can easily program them from the front panel, and most of the operations are intuitive. The displays on these radios are very informative in general. Probably the most complex thing the user has to do with the digital side of things here is to enter their name and call sign into the radio.

(c) Utility: Most Fusion radios include GPS to support Yaesu's built-in ranging feature (you can see the distance and direction to stations you're hearing in digital mode). The higher end models include true dual receive, and wide-band receive capability. Some of the handhelds even cover AM broadcast, FM, and HF bands (AM only) which is handy. APRS is built into several models - - combined with the built-in GPS, these radios can serve as trackers. You can also use Fusion radios to transmit various data (images, text, and so forth). Fusion repeaters can be configured to allow both FM analog and C4FM communications; Fusion radios theoretically can use "automatic mode selection" or AMS to switch automatically to the correct mode. AMS is a good marketing tool as it allows clubs to install Fusion repeaters without locking out their existing FM users. Fusion repeaters do not translation FM and digital communications; if you're listening in digital mode and the repeater passes FM traffic, you won't hear that traffic. Both the Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club (<https://www.w0erh.org>) and Raytown Amateur Radio Club (<http://k0gq.com>) have excellent and amazing Fusion repeater systems in operation.

(d) System Characteristics: From the system point of view, Fusion has a weak network layer (WiresX). In order to connect repeaters to the Internet for WiresX, sysops must install and maintain a separate node station that connects between the repeater and Internet. The nodes station requires a Fusion radio, a PC and Yaesu's HRI-200 interface box. This node station operates half-duplex, which complicates the interface between the actual repeater and Internet WiresX traffic. (If the repeater is transmitting, then the node is only listening to the repeater and can't pass the WiresX-conveyed voice signal from the Internet until the repeater drops carrier.) WiresX is a proprietary standard designed by Yaesu, and traffic going through the WiresX system must pass through and/or be validated Yaesu's servers, a potential single point of failure. Third-party devices are not allowed to talk to WiresX "rooms", so it's impossible to connect mobile hotspots to Fusion rooms. Repeater are proprietary (only Yaesu devices can be used), but are reasonably priced. Fusion is the newest digital mode and it

has rapidly changed over the last three years; considerable IT skills and patience are required to maintain repeater and node stations.

### **DMR:**

(a) Mobile Unit Cost: Mobile units are relatively inexpensive. Handhelds such as the MD-380 can be had for under \$100, and even high-end handhelds such as the AnyTone AT868UV dual-band (2 m/70 cm) are under \$180. A typical dual-band mobile (such as the Connect Systems CS800D, with 50W output) is around \$300. The Chinese are building lots of these radios, hence the low cost.

(b) Ease of Operation: Once you've got a DMR radio set up, it's actually easy to operate. The initial configuration is the tricky part - however, you're well-covered in Kansas City by going to the Back Yard Repeater Group's website (<http://byrg.net>), where they have everything you need to get started. These are not ham radios at all, but instead are commercial devices. As such, they must be programmed with a PC - the file sent to the radio with the configuration of channels and other information is called a "codeplug." To use DMR, you must register your name and callsign with DMR-MARC; they give you a DMR ID number that you program into your radio's codeplug that identifies you on the network. Some DMR radios are beginning to incorporate front-panel programming capabilities, but they're far from being ham radios. Most DMR radios tend to be Spartan in appearance, often with a simple display showing just one or two pieces of information, such as channel information or the identity of a person talking on a repeater. Some models have an excellent color display (such as the MD-380), others such as the AnyTone AT868UV have a deluxe color display that gives a lot of information.

(c) Utility: Some DMR radios incorporate GPS, but that's not an extensively used feature in most amateur circles. Most of the functionality of DMR is in the network itself; it's easy to set up and access talkgroups through most repeaters (DMR talkgroups are somewhat analogous to Fusion rooms). The Brandmeister network has a very useful website that provides live information about talkgroup activity, which includes lists of active users. With just a PC, you can connect to Hoseline (<https://hose.brandmeister.network/>) and listen to streaming audio from any Brandmeister DMR talkgroup. This is extremely handy for listening in where you might not have access to a radio; you can also verify the quality and quantity of your transmitted audio. It's also possible to check audio on a radio by accessing the "parrot" talkgroup. DMR allows two conversations at a time on each channel; each conversation occupies one time slot. Most DMR repeaters in this area assign time slot 2 to a "main" talk group, such as BYRG (31201), and allow other talkgroups (such as local utility groups) on time slot 1. Talkgroups themselves are very powerful; the choice of talkgroup allows you to decide if a communication should stay on a local repeater, local group of repeaters, or go farther (such as state-wide, country-wide, or world-wide). You can access the DMR network easily using a mobile hotspot.

(d) System Characteristics: DMR is a commercial standard. The preferred hardware for repeaters is Motorola (costly but solid), but it's possible to use other makes of hardware, depending on what network the repeater is connected to. Because DMR is based on commercial standards (ETSI TS 102 361-1,2,3,4 - see <http://pda.etsi.org/pda>), the network layer is well developed. DMR repeaters connect directly to the Internet in full-duplex to specific groups of servers that handle the message traffic. The Backyard Repeater Group (BYRG) repeaters are part of the Brandmeister system and connect with Brandmeister's servers to pass traffic to and from the Internet. DMR divides each channel into two time slots numbered 1 and 2. These two time slots allow each repeater to host two different conversations at the same time.

### **D-STAR:**

(a) Mobile Unit Cost: The cost is similar to the Fusion system. Both Kenwood and Icom make D-STAR

capable radios. On some Icom radios (such as the IC-9100 "shack in a box"), D-STAR can be added by purchasing an optional, internal adapter board.

(b)(c) Ease of Operation and Utility: D-STAR radios are similar to Fusion in that they are first and foremost amateur radios. Icom D-STAR radios work just like other Icom radios, so if you're familiar and friendly with Icom gear, you'll be right at home. With D-STAR you choose a destination "gateway" address to make connections through the Internet; this "gateway" is roughly equivalent to a Fusion "room" or DMR "talkgroup." You must register online to access D-STAR gateways, though you can easily talk through the local repeaters without being registered. D-STAR can also be employed on HF - it seems to work quite well on the HF bands when conditions are clear. It's quite a shock to talk to someone on HF with D-STAR and not hear any background noise! D-STAR also allows sharing of data (pictures, text, and so forth) and also supports GPS functionality. You can also easily access the D-STAR network with a mobile hotspot.

(d) System Characteristics: D-STAR repeater installations require a dedicated "gateway" PC using Icom's RS-RP2C software. The individual D-STAR repeaters pass traffic to the network through this dedicated PC. This is a better configuration than used with Fusion (no separate node station and radio are required), but it still requires considerable IT skills to configure and maintain.

## Conclusion:

In Kansas City, Fusion and DMR are the most popular digital voice modes right now. There are very helpful and knowledgeable people that can help you with any of these modes, and you will find lots of activity on them. For example, Johnson County has a weekly net on 442.600 MHz (+) Fusion on Wednesdays, 8 pm. The networks and repeaters are rapidly growing. Join the fun and ham it up with the digital crowd!

## Kaw Valley (KVARC) CW Class

CW Class (Hosted By: KVARC)

Doug Dunton, WDØDBS from the Kaw Valley (KVARC) Topeka, KS Club shared with me that they are going to try something new this year. They are going to try and put together a CW (Morse code) class for those who are interested. So far the schedule is set as follows:

Tue May 15th, 22nd, & 29th 2018 6:30 PM 8:30 PM CT Main - Marvin Auditorium 101A 18

Tue Jun 5, 2018 6:30 PM 8:30 PM CT Main - Marvin Auditorium 101A 18

If there are any questions on the CW class or wish to reserve a seat you are free to email Doug, [WDØDBS](mailto:WDØDBS).

## 2018 ARRL Field Day June 23-24

Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

This year, many groups and participants may choose to combine 2018 Field Day with our yearlong operating event - [2018 ARRL International Grid Chase](#) (IGC) - working stations in as many grid squares as possible and uploading log data to [ARRL's Logbook of The World](#) (LoTW).



## Silent Keys

### Charles Zartman Whaley, WB0OFA

Charles Zartman Whaley, WB0OFA, 70, Olathe, KS passed away April-05-2018 at Good Samaritan Society and Good Shepherd Hospice. Gravesite will be at Virgil City Cemetery in Virgil City, MO. A Graveside memorial will be held in May. Mr. Whaley was born 12-30-47 in Hannibal, MO.



*Charles Whaley, WB0OFA*

Personal Background: Army Vietnam Veteran tour from 1970-71, ham radio operator, call letters: WB0OFA, partner in Lowell-Kangas and Associates Inc and former Kansas City area ERA (Electronics Representatives Association) President. Cub Scout Master of Pack 3248 and member of the Heart of America Council.

He was preceded in death by his father Charles Whaley and Mother Anna Zartman Whaley Peters.

Survivors include Kyle Whaley (son), Charlotte White (sister), Linda Wise (former spouse), and Ursula Pearson (significant other).

<https://heartlandcremation.com/obituary/charles-zartman-whaley/>

### Luther Calvin Simmons, W0ADE

Luther Calvin Simmons, W0ADE, age 92, of Pleasanton, Kansas passed away on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at Medicalodge, Fort Scott. He was born on February 2, 1926 at Turner, Kansas the son of Lester and Ethel Bond Simmons. He served his country in the United States Army during World War II. He worked for the Wyandotte County Sheriff from 1969 to 1988, retiring as Captain. He was instrumental in the implementation of the 911 dispatch system in Wyandotte Country. He had a love for all of God's creation. He was a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Pleasanton, enjoyed playing steel guitar and genealogy.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mardene. He later married Barbara Holland on January 20, 2007. He was also preceded in death by his parents, a son, James Simmons, five brothers: Charles, Seth, Edgar, Lester, and Luther, four sisters: Earline, Ethel, Maudie and Martha. Luther is survived by his wife, Barbara, a son, Lester Simmons, two daughters; Brenda Miller and Cheryl Peters, four step children: Thomas Long, Daniel Long, Rebecca Crossana and Heather Smith, five grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.



*Luther Simmons, W0ADE*

Funeral service will be held 12 Noon Thursday, April 12, 2018 at the Schneider Funeral Home and Crematory, Pleasanton Chapel. Burial will be at 1:30 at the Fort Scott National Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 pm Wednesday at the Schneider Pleasanton Chapel, and from 11 am to service Thursday. The family suggests contributions to Compassionate Ministries, c/o Schneider Funeral Home.

<http://schneiderfunerals.frontrunnerpro.com/book-of-memories/3467938/Simmons-Luther/obituary.php>

**Please support the Midwest Division Newsletter**

## **Robert Allen Atkeisson, WØAT**

Major Robert Allen Atkeisson (Ret. U. S. Army)



*Robert Atkeisson, WØAT*

Robert Allen Atkeisson, (94) formerly of Independence, Missouri passed away April 26, 2018 in Wichita, KS. Funeral services will be Tuesday, May 1, at 11:00 am at McGilley & Sheil Funeral Home, Kansas City Missouri. Burial will be in Brooking Cemetery, Raytown, Missouri. Visitation will be one hour before the Funeral Service.

Major Atkeisson was born November 4, 1923 in Kansas City, Missouri, one of five children of James and Clara Allen Atkeisson. Preceded in death by his wife of 65 years Ruth Ann Sturgess Atkeisson. Surviving are sons Roger Atkeisson (& wife Laurel) of New Braunfels, TX, Raymond Atkeisson (& fiancé Jeanne) of Aurora, CO, and Randal Atkeisson (& wife Elizabeth) of Wichita, KS. Also, surviving are seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Major Atkeisson enlisted in the U. S. Army at the age of eighteen in July of 1942 during World War II and served as a Combat Engineer in the Pacific Theater from Australia to Japan. After the War, he was a member of the Missouri National Guard, and retired as a Major with over 25 years of service. He also worked for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the U. S. Air Force before retiring in 1981. He held commercial radio licenses, and Amateur Radio Operators License, WØAT for over 75 years.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/kansas-city-mo/robert-atkeisson-7835766>

## **Inez {Dee} Simpson Cowan, NØSKK**

Known as Dee, she was born in Ridgeway, Mo., April 28, 1938, to Dorothy and Jasper Simpson. They moved to California then back to Kansas City, KS., in 1942 when her father took a position with North American Aviation. Her father retired from the Kansas City Kansas Board of Education in 1979 as a teacher and administrator.

Dee attended Roosevelt Grade School and graduated from Wyandotte High School in 1955.

Dee and Ralph Dugan Cowan were married on March 9, 1957.

They had four children: Cheryl Willis, Overland Park, KS.; Laura Kyle, Drexel, Mo.; Ronald Cowan, La Cygne, KS.; and Michael Cowan, Overland Park, KS. Four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Surviving also is her brother Jasper Simpson, Kansas City, KS.

Dee was involved in Ralph's businesses while raising four children and was always at Ralph's side supporting him in every way.

During the 18 years Ralph raced cars all over the Midwest, she and the kids traveled with him and they were always there for "Dad." Dee was always sacrificing her needs to be supportive to Ralph and the kids. It was always family first.

Dee and Ralph moved from Kansas City, KS., in 1966 to Leawood, KS., where they lived until moving to the La Cygne area where they built a house in 1983.

Dee was an Amateur Radio Operator with the call NØSKK for 25 years, achieving the highest license available from the FCC. She and Ron have organized the radio club's Hamfest open house every February at La Cygne's Community Building for 18 years.

A malignant tumor was detected December 8, 2017, and removed from her colon on January 4, 2018. Dee was otherwise very healthy and with much deliberation she and Ralph chose to follow the

doctors' suggestions and had her first chemotherapy on March 7th of this year. There was the "normal" nausea that goes with this treatment. Otherwise no problems surfaced. Her second treatment on March 21st caused negative effects and on March 25th she was admitted to St. Luke's emergency room with the symptoms of a chemo reaction. She was eventually diagnosed with Febrile Neutropenia, a condition known to be caused by chemotherapy treatment. It has a 96 percent mortality rate.

She fought very hard to save her life but it slipped away every day for 23 days. She passed away April 17th at 10:43 p.m. at St. Luke's South with her husband and children at her side.

No donations are suggested, but if you would like to do something for your loved ones, have them consider all options and all possibilities of any negative effects before they subject themselves to any type of chemotherapy. There is a very good chance Dee would have lived many good years if the choice had not been to try chemotherapy.

She will be missed by anyone who knew her; she was "Special", not many made like her.

<http://linncountynews.net/obituaries/inez-deverl-dee-simpson-cowan>

## Up, Up and Away!!

### Central Christian Students Observe Weather Balloon Launch

Terrence Laurendine, W5TBO, holds the bottom of the weather balloon as it fills with hydrogen while Dan Orpin, KDØACJ; Joe Pajor, KBØKFH and Rodney McDaniel, WØREM; right, stabilize it against the wind. This experiment performed by Project Traveler, is part of the study of weather in eighth grade Earth Science class at Central Christian School of Hutchinson on Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

[Photo Credit Jesse Brothers/Hutch News]

<http://www.hutchnews.com/news/20180503/central-christian-students-observe-weather-balloon-launch>



## Testing Session News

The *Wichita ARC Laurel VE* group listed the results from their April 13 testing session in the May 2018 Grounded Grid. Congratulations to all who achieved their desired goals!

New Technicians are Rickie DeMoss, KE0REF; John Dotts; KE0REG; Brent Haberman, KE0REH; Cindy McMurray, KE0REJ; Preston Pywell, KE0REL; Robert Shick Jr., KE0REM;

New Generals are Stephen Johnson, KE0REI (returning, previously KC0KQ, Advanced); and Lawrence Nelson, KE0REK.

New Extra is Allan Weilert, AE0BT.

Upgrading to General were Crystal Albrecht, KE0RAB, and Cheryl Gibbs, KE0MXH.

Upgrading to Extra were Shane Albrecht, KE0LJA, and James Conrad, WB0PFZ.

*WØVFW, VFW Post 3115* in Wichita has completed 38 quarterly VE sessions. They hold their sessions on the 5th Saturday of the month @8AM. Larry, W8LM wanted to recognize the additions of three new VE's to their team. Coy Terry, WØZWS; Russel Romine, KC5UNP; and Jennifer Romine KD5SYQ. An additional reminder to those wanting to use the current Technician Question Pool expires July 1, 2018.

# BANNER CREEK SCIENCE CENTER + OBSERVATORY

The Jackson ARC is welcoming any and all to Join us on May 12th 2018 to help us celebrate the clubs 25 year anniversary, along with it's 1 year re-activation and newly acquired partnership with the Banner Creek Science Center & Observatory.

The main goal is to educate the public, give demonstrations on various aspects of the hobby and services of Amateur "HAM" Radio, share the science behind radio communications, hobby and services available and even allow those who are wanting to get on the air and give it a try...

This event will also allow the Jackson ARC and Hiawatha (HARC) Clubs a chance to practice and test an extremely large Full Loop wire antenna and various other antenna designs.

We will also be providing testing for those who are looking to newly acquire their license, as well as anyone looking to upgrade their current license. For those wishing to test, we ask that you reserve a spot as seating is limited. To reserve, email the Jackson ARC Activity Manager. Testing will be done using ARRL VE's and materials.

Event Times:

Amateur Radio License Testing: 12PM-2PM

Main Event: 2PM – 6PM

Location: Banner Creek Science Center & Observatory just west of Holton!  
22275 N Rd Holton, KS 66436

Interested in astronomy or any form of Science? Awesome! The Banner Creek Science Center & Observatory will have people there that would love to see you and show you around!

If any operators/clubs would like to help us educate the public, share the word about Amateur Radio, please contact the Jackson ARC Club Activity Manager Paul Freeland (KD0JTR).

Jackson ARC Activity Manager  
Paul Freeland (KD0JTR)  
Email: [kd0jtr@jacksonarc.com](mailto:kd0jtr@jacksonarc.com)

Maybe you just want to hang out... Bring a folding chair and cold drinks, and come on out!

**\*\*Please Note, Alcohol is not allowed on premises\*\***



## Tom's Key Strokes - WØEAJ

Denver, Co. Displaced Kansas Neighbor  
and very gud friend!

\*\*\*

[daileyservices@centurylink.net](mailto:daileyservices@centurylink.net)



While the beginning of the article deals with the development of the National HRO series of receivers, the part I'm directing everybody to, is the section on British intercept ops and codebreaking. It wasn't ALL about the ENIGMA (called ULTRA by the British), there were countless other codes that were intercepted and broken, which often were used as "cribs" (clues) for ULTRA and other messages. An example was when a German operator sent the same message in two different "days"... once the

