



October 2020 Newsletter

Midwest Division Vice Director Election Correction

To Members of the Midwest Division:

Ballots for the Midwest Vice Director election have been mailed, and you should be receiving yours soon if you haven't already. Please note: due to a layout error, the photo accompanying the statement for candidate Lloyd Colston, KC5FM, is not the correct photograph. Attached is a revised statement with the actual photograph of Mr. Colston. All other information is unchanged. The ballots are still valid and should still be used. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for being an active and engaged member!

Carla Pereira, KC1HSX
Executive Manager, ARRL Executive Committee

Question the next Midwest Division Vice Director

The Midwest Division Vice Director election is happening.

Ballots are mailed in October. The ballot is due back in November.

In the Midwest Division, members will choose between Dave Propper, K2DP, a current Assistant Director, and Lloyd Colston, KC5FM, a past Oklahoma Section Manager.

- Dave Propper, K2DP phone number (314) 225-5167
- Lloyd Colston, KC5FM phone number (234) 564-ARRL.

Please feel free to contact them individually with questions or concerns you may have.

Jackson ARC 2nd Annual Swapfest

Jackson ARC in Holton Kansas is hosting their annual Swapfest

Have extra equipment and want to make extra money? Need or want to upgrade your Ham Radio license?

Ham friends! Non-ham friends who might be curious! Come take a look, play 200 questions during the educational forum if you like.

Breakfast, lunch and dessert will be provided!

The Armory is at the corner of US-75 and K-16, next door (north) of the Ford dealership. Any questions, or to reserve a table, email club@jacksonarc.com.

2nd Annual
Jackson Amateur Radio Club

SWAPFEST

Date: **December 5, 2020**

Time: **9:00AM—4:00PM**

Location: **Holton Army National Guard Armory
1008 W 4th St, Holton, KS**

Talk in on the AA0MM Repeater: 146.775 No tone re-
quired, Negative Offset.

Get rid of that equipment you don't use or need!
Cost per table is \$10.

There will be an Educational Forum by Morgan Bailey
NJ8M at 10:00AM

Food, drinks, and dessert will be available at the event.

There will be W5YI Testing. Testing Fee: \$14
Testing will begin at 10:00AM

MIDWEST 2020 Elections Statements of Candidates VICE DIRECTOR



LLOYD COLSTON, KC5FM

Lloyd Colston, KC5FM, wishes to thank those in the Midwest Division for the support as he continues to strive to make amateur radio known in the nation.

“Amateur radio is an immense hobby,” he stated. “With that in mind, the mission of the ARRL in the Division should be to promote the best hobby on the planet...and all its facets...far and wide.”

Colston is an Advanced Class amateur radio operator, who was first licensed as WN5AXH in 1970. He also was an active participant in the Navy-Marine Corp Military Affiliate Radio System. Professionally, he is retired as an emergency management director. As an “early adopter” of social media, Colston was involved in a number of activities, including the Oklahoma Virtual Operations Support Team (okvost.vosg.us) and the National VOST leadership.

He has been married to Judy for 45 years. They have three children and two grandchildren.

In addition to the ARRL and MARS, he is a member of the 10-10 Net International, the Quarter Century Wireless Association, the South Coast Amateur Radio Society, the Bible Fellowship Net, and the Christian Amateur Radio Fellowship. Colston can be found operating FM, including 10- and two meter simplex and repeaters, mobile on HF, and VOIP operations such as Echolink, Allstar, Remote Hams, and Hamshack Hotline.

He is the Public Information Officer for the Voice Over Internet Protocol Weather Net (<http://www.voipwx.net>) and former Public Affairs Officer for both the Oklahoma Section and South Area in the MARS program. As the Oklahoma Section Manager and Public Information Coordinator, he has helped foster social media including the <http://arrlok.blogspot.com/blog>, <http://twitter.com/aiTI> OK Twitter presence, and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ARRL-Oklahoma> on Facebook.



DAVE PROPPER, K2DP

Having been a licensed radio amateur for 55 years and an ARRL member for that entire time period, I have always considered the possibility of taking a more active role in the leadership of our hobby, to occur at a time when I would have the flexibility and ability to support whatever opportunity presented itself. I currently serve you and the ARRL as an Assistant Director - Midwest Division and have worked closely with Midwest Division Directors Rod Blocksome, KØDAS and Cliff Ahrens, KØCA. That time has arrived!

I have recently retired from a long career in commercial and defense electronics, the last 34 years with The Boeing Company (previously McDonnell Douglas). At Boeing, I held both management and technical leadership responsibilities for the development of major avionics sub-systems. I received both my undergraduate and graduate degrees from Boston University. My career with McDonnell Douglas brought my family and I to Saint Louis in 1995 where we have made our home for the past 25 years.

I am an active member of and currently hold leadership positions with both The Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society – St. Louis (BEARS) and Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club.

Amateur Radio faces many challenges today in terms of retaining the privileges the authorized service provides us while maintaining our interest levels across all age and experience groups. Based upon my review of amateur radio periodicals from the past 75 years, we have faced these challenges before and prevailed!!!

Should I be elected to serve as your Vice Director, I will work for the benefit of all amateur radio operators, young and old, regardless of your area(s) of interest, to continue to allow our hobby to prosper and develop and serve the public good. Thank you in advance for your support.

73,

Dave Propper, K2DP

[The above statements have been reproduced from material supplied by the candidates.

They have been screened for typographical errors but otherwise have not been edited in any way.]

Note: The candidate's 300-word statement contains a mixture of facts and his opinions.

The candidate's statement does not necessarily reflect the opinion of ARRL or its board of directors and officers.

Richard Smith, WØQGS
Club President, Jackson ARC
Holton, Kansas 66436
Phone (Main): (785)935-2141
Mobile: (785)817-5375
Email: w0qgs@jacksonarc.com
Club Website: www.jacksonarc.com

FCC Orders Amateur Access to 3.5 GHz Band to "Sunset"

SB QST ARL ARLB028

ARLB028 FCC Orders Amateur Access to 3.5 GHz Band to "Sunset"

Despite vigorous and continuing opposition from ARRL and others, the FCC has ordered the "sunset" of the 3.3 - 3.5-GHz amateur radio secondary spectrum allocation. The decision allows current amateur activity on the band to continue, "grandfathering" the amateur operations subject to a later decision. The FCC proposed two deadlines for amateur operations to cease on the band. The first would apply to the 3.4 - 3.5 GHz segment, the second to 3.3 - 3.4 GHz. The FCC will establish the dates once it reviews additional comments.

"We adopt our proposal from the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to remove the amateur allocation from the 3.3 - 3.5 GHz band," the FCC said in its R&O. "[W]e adopt changes to our rules today that provide for the sunset of the secondary amateur allocation in the band, but allow continued use of the band for amateur operations, pending resolution of the issues raised in the Further Notice."

The Report and Order (R&O) and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WT Docket No. 19-348 adopted on September 30 followed a 2019 FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in which the FCC proposed re-allocating 3.45 - 3.55 GHz for "flexible-use service" and auctioning the desirable "mid-band" spectrum (generally defined as between 1 GHz and 6 GHz) to 5G providers. These and other recent spectrum-repurposing actions stem from the MOBILE NOW Act, enacted in 2018, in which Congress directed the Commission to make additional spectrum available to auction for mobile and fixed wireless broadband. The FCC action is consistent with worldwide allocations adopted by the ITU for these frequencies.

The Report and Order can be found online in PDF format at <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1002214202488/FCC-20-138A1.pdf>.

In the run-up to the Commission's decision, ARRL met with the FCC's professional staff to explain its concerns and to answer questions. Subsequently, ARRL met with the wireless advisors to the FCC Chairman and two Commissioners. In those meetings, ARRL reiterated that continued secondary status for amateurs will not impair or devalue use of this spectrum by the primary licensees intending to provide 5G or other service. ARRL noted amateur radio's long history of successful coexistence with primary users of the 9 cm band, sharing this spectrum with the federal government users and secondary, non-federal occupants.

ARRL pointed out that vital links in amateur television and amateur radio high-speed mesh networks using the band have been especially valuable during such emergency situations as the wildfires currently raging on the west coast. Deleting the amateur secondary allocation will result in lost opportunities for experimentation and public service with no public interest benefit to make up for that.

ARRL argued that deleting the secondary allocation would waste the scarce spectrum resource, particularly in areas where commercial services often do not construct full facilities due to small

populations. The FCC action means that amateur radio will lose access to the 3.5-GHz secondary allocation even where commercial operations do not exist. ARRL told the Commission that it should not intentionally allow this spectrum to be vacant and unused, wasting the public resource, when amateurs can use some portion of it in any geographic areas with no detriment to any other licensee, just as it has in the past. ARRL argues that amateur operations should be permitted until and unless an actual potential for interference exists.

Deletion of the 3.3 - 3.5 GHz secondary amateur allocation will become effective on the effective date of the FCC's order, but amateur radio operation as of that date may continue while the FCC finalizes rules to license spectrum in the 3.45 - 3.55 GHz band and establishes deadlines for amateur operations to cease. The FCC proposed allowing amateur operation in the 3.3 - 3.4 GHz portion of the band to continue "pending further decisions about the future of this portion of the spectrum," the timing for which is unknown. The Commission proposed to mandate that operations cease in the 3.4 - 3.5 GHz portion when commercial licensing commences for the new 3.45 - 3.55 GHz "5G" band, which is predicted to begin in the first half of 2022.

"[W]e seek comment on whether it is in the public interest to sunset amateur use in the 3.3 - 3.55 GHz band in two separate phases, e.g., first above 3.4 GHz, which is the focus of [the R&O] and later in that portion of the band below 3.4 GHz," the FCC said.

ARRL expressed gratitude to the many members and organizations that joined ARRL in challenging the FCC throughout this nearly year-long proceeding. They included multiple radio clubs, weak signal enthusiasts, moonbounce participants, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN), the Amateur Television Network (ATN), AMSAT, and Open Research Institute (ORI).

ARRL will continue its efforts to preserve secondary amateur radio access to 3.3 - 3.5 GHz. Members are invited to share comments by visiting <http://www.arrl.org/3-GHz-Band> .

"We recognize that any loss of our privileges will most directly impact radio amateurs who use the frequencies to operate and innovate," said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. "Such instances only embolden ARRL's role to protect and advocate for the Amateur Radio Service and Amateur Satellite Service. There will be continued threats to our spectrum. So I urge all amateurs, now more than ever, to strengthen our hold by being ceaseless in our public service, experimenting, and discovery throughout the radio spectrum."

Links For Kansas Hams

ARRL Main Page	http://www.arrl.org
ARRL KS Section News Page	http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/kansas
ARRL Midwest Director's Newsletter	http://www.arrlmidwest.org/newsletter/newsletter.pdf
Kansas Section Pages and KAR's	https://ksarrl.org
Mo-Kan Regional Council of ARC Orgs	https://mokancouncil.org/
Associated Radio	https://www.associatedradio.com/home.php
Kansas QSO Party	https://ksqsoparty.org/
Ensor Museum	http://www.ensorparkandmuseum.org
K-Link Repeater Network	http://ks0lnk.net
Sand Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc	http://www.SandhillsARC.com

Links to all known Kansas Clubs can be found at the bottom of <https://ksarrl.org>

If you change your Clubs web address, please contact Kent at kb0rwi@arrl.net

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

Western Kansas 160m Net Tuesdays at 9:00PM Central Time

The Western Kansas 160m net is held every Tuesday evening at 9pm central time on 1.960 LSB. All general class and above stations are welcomed to join in.

August Net Reports provided by Richard, KØRCJ

Wichita Amateur Radio Club (WARC)	WARC DMR Nets
5 Sessions, QNI: 163, QTC: 0	5 Sessions, QNI: 42, QTC: 0
WARC Fusion Nets	Great Salt Plains ARC (GSPARC)
5 Sessions, QNI: 32, QTC: 0	5 Sessions, QNI: 78, QTC: 0
QCWA	KS SSB Nets
5 Sessions, QNI: 29, QTC: 0	30 Sessions, QNI: 623, QTC: 47
Reno County KS ARA (RCKARA)	KS Phone Nets
4 Session, QNI: 35, QTC: 0	23 Sessions, QNI: 314, QTC: 14
Visibly Inconvenienced Hams Net	RCKARA
5 Sessions, QNI 104 QTC 0	No net on meeting nights
QCWA NET meets each Saturday morning at 07:30 local time on 3.920+-. All welcome to join in.	

September Net Reports provided by Richard, KØRCJ

Wichita Amateur Radio Club (WARC)	WARC DMR Nets
4 Sessions, QNI: 137, QTC: 0	4 Sessions, QNI: 33, QTC: 0
WARC Fusion Nets	Great Salt Plains ARC (GSPARC)
4 Sessions, QNI: 26, QTC: 0	4 Sessions, QNI: 47, QTC: 0
QCWA	KS SSB Nets
4 Sessions, QNI: 24, QTC: 0	30 Sessions, QNI: 592, QTC: 54
Reno County KS ARA (RCKARA)	KS Phone Nets
4 Session, QNI: 45, QTC: 0	21 Sessions, QNI: 135, QTC: 12
Visibly Inconvenienced Hams Net	Butler County CERT
4 SESSIONS, QNI 80 QTC 0	4 SESSIONS, QNI 46, QTC 15



Silent Keys

As a service to fellow hams across the state, I urge all individuals and Clubs to send me Silent Key notices. Please include a link to an obituary. I watch Larry's List for announcements of hams from Kansas. If you are not on Larry's List, I will forward the notice to him. He in turn notifies the ARRL. As Larry cannot include pictures, I do my best to find images so that a face can be put with the name and call. Thank you!



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

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network

<https://ksarrl.org/satern>

KANSAS HF NETS				
UPDATED November 6, 2019 11:19				
Days	Time	Mgr	Freq	Net Name
M, W, F	6:45AM	KØRCJ	3920 KHz	Kansas Phone Net
Daily	7:00AM	WDØBWE	3920 KHz	Kansas AM Weather Net
Sat, Sun	8:00AM	KØRCJ	3920 KHz	Kansas Phone Net
Mon -Fri	12:30PM	KC5MP	7253.5 KHz	Central States Traffic Net
Daily	6:00PM	WDØBWE	3920 KHz	Kansas Weather Net
Daily	6:30PM	KØRCJ	3920 KHz	Kansas Sideband Net
Daily	7:00PM	NBØZ	3547 KHz	QKS CW NTS Traffic Net
Mon	7:30PM	WDØESF	3547 KHz	QKS SS CW Traffic Net
Daily	10:00PM	NBØZ	3547 KHz	QKS CW NTS Traffic Net

I have posted public service nets on <https://ksarrl.org/traffic.php>



ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service



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

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

<https://ksarrl.org/ares/distks.php>

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE MONTHLY EC REPORTS

➤ Zone 4A – Brian KCØBS

AUGUST 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 NF0Z - 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 K0NUG - 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

Net Sessions: 36

QNI: 332

QTC: 0

4 nets - 2 Meter Voice

4 nets - 440 Voice

4 nets - 440 Fusion Digita

4 nets - 2 Meter SATERN Voice

4 nets – CW

4 nets - 6 Meter

4 nets - 2 Meter Voice Simplex

4 nets - 1.25 Meter

4 nets - SATERN 80 meter SSB

Report prepared by:

Darren Martin NOMZW
Johnson County Kansas

SEPTEMBER 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 NF0Z - ECS Liaison

George McCarville WB0CNK - Training, Drills

Matt May KC4WCG - IDs, MECC

Bill Gery KA2FNK - Recruiting, Technology

Darren Martin NOMZW - Net Manager

Brad Kelsey KU0FAN – Membership

Jesse Gonzalez KE0ECS – CERT

Chuck Simpson KCONUG - 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 K10BK

Debbie Britain AB0UY

Rich Britain N0ENO

Net Sessions: 33

QNI: 313

QTC: 0

5 nets - 2 Meter Voice

4 nets - 440 Voice

4 nets - 440 Fusion Digital

5 nets – CW

5 nets - 6 Meter

5 nets - 2 Meter Voice Simplex

5 nets - 1.25 Meter

5 nets - SATERN 80 meter SSB

JOCO ARES activated in the October SET on Saturday the 3rd in cooperation with SATERN and Johnson County ECS to field 22 participants at 4 shelter locations, as well as from homes.

Messages were passed using FLDigi, APRS and voice. 95% of the messages were passed on simplex frequencies or HF.

Form standardization and accuracy are areas to train on for next time.

Report prepared by:

Darren Martin NOMZW

Johnson County Kansas

➤ **Zones 6A, E & G – Rod, KØEQH**

Kansas ARES Net report for Zones 6A, E & G, August 2020

Total nets.....4

Total QNI.....36

Stations participating: WBOQYA, AC0E, KCOMDC, KD0LQD, W0BYV, KE0GXV, N0OMC, N0KQX, N0OXQ, KG0VA, K0CXD, K0EQH, KD0TWO

Rod
K0EQH
NCS

Finney, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell,
Kearney, Lane, Scott, Stanton, Wichita Counties

Sand Hills ARC will hold it's September dinner meeting September 19th. Will be at the -La Fiesta- restaurant just east of the Pizza Hut in Scott City. Gathering time 6PM. All are welcome, like to have RSVP by 17th.

Kansas Zone 6A, E & G ARES Net Report September 2020

Total Nets.....5
Total QNI.....39

Stations participating: KD0TWO, AC0E, WBOQYA, N0OMC, KG0VA, N0OXQ, N0KQX, K0EQH, KD0LQD, KE0GXV, W0BYV

Rod
K0EQH
NCS

The Sand Hills ARC held it's annual Sept meeting/dinner on Sept 19. We met at the La Fiesta Restaurant in Scott City. We had not met since March. Previous meetings had been done on the air or via Zoom.

We had 13 members and guests in attendance. The date was also Rod, K0EQH's, birthday! He turned 80! Joining us was Rod's daughter, Melissa, from Manhattan and her two boys.

Matt, KD0EZZ, won the attendance prize, a ARRL 2020 Field Day T-shirt. He passed it on to Jim, AC0E, as was not right size for him.

Good food and good time had by all.

K0EQH



To say the Kansas QSO Party was different this year is an understatement. COVID-19 indirectly kept some mobiles home, required a rule change to allow distributed Club operations, brought non-Kansas ops out in amazing numbers, and had "Kansas" stations, including out-of-state mobiles, pulling together like never before.

I can't help but comment on what it took for all of us to pull this off in this crazy year. When COVID-

19 caused earlier QSO parties to drop mobile categories and change how multi-op was done, I wondered what it meant for the KSQP in 2020. Since then, we've all learned to adapt. When other QSO parties started allowing mobile and multi-op categories again, we decided to as well, but changed some rules a bit to accommodate.

Right off the bat, two new out-of-state mobiles signed up, one from Idaho/K7TQ+WA0WWW and one from Wyoming/WY7AA. This year Colorado/AD0DX, Missouri/KI0I, Iowa/NOAC and Oklahoma/K5CM+N5NK "Kansas" mobiles joined three "local" Kansas mobiles (K0HNC, WY0A, W0BH) to cover all 105 counties. Then on Saturday, N4CD from Texas put in a surprise visit, his first KSQP operation, as he put out parks and counties while braving the early Saturday morning thunderstorms in southeast Kansas. A record 11 portable stations planned operations, and our "regular" fixed and club stations and our intrepid distributed bonus station KSOKS operators were out in full force as well.

I mention some callsigns because during the QSO party, we seem to "hide" behind 57 1x1 calls spelling KANSAS, QSOPARTY, SUNFLOWER and YELLOWBRICKROAD plus our three new "M for Medical Challenge" calls. The spelling challenge and associated certificates and antique radio stamps are extremely popular, so special thanks to those who feel the loss of identity and still operate 1x1 calls for us. Perhaps the increased number of contacts makes up for it a bit as 1x1 calls often generate pileups just like "rare" counties or rare countries. Thanks, too, to Kansas ops who get on with their own call to make even more contacts and counties available. It takes all of us!

Here are a few impressive items of note from the preliminary results:

Logs were due October 1.

Thanks to Ron/ad0dx for the excellent log-checking software.

Thanks to Kent/kb0rwi for the KSQP web site Received Logs and Soapbox updates.

619 KSQP logs with 81,936 valid QSOs were processed, topping our 2018 record of 420 logs. We also topped our 2019 record of 55,620 QSOs.

45 FT8 logs with 1959 QSOs were processed. This topped our 2018 record of 20 logs and 1135 QSOs. 139 Kansas operators participated (3 short of our 2018 record of 142).

We had one confirmed county Sweep of all 105 counties. John, N6MU claimed his 10th consecutive county sweep!

The participation in the KsQP was on track with earlier reports of increased activity in all state QSO parties by at least 50%! Soapbox posts reflected great enthusiasm even with poor band conditions.

Kent Stutzman, KB0RWI

With information from Bob, W0BH 3830 post, Preliminary Score post on October 3

Kansas Simulated Emergency Test Overview

The annual Simulated Emergency Test was held last week. The designated national date is the first weekend in October, however there is flex allowing for participation with local governments that may prefer a different date to interface with Amateur Radio.

We typically put an emphasis on Radiograms and the National Traffic System for this event since that is a way everyone can be involved. Nightly we have the Kansas Sideband Net and QKS our CW traffic net. Daytime the Kansas Phone Nets are the first message handling opportunities. The Kansas Weather Net can also be used for message handling and is held around the same time of day as the traffic nets.

The number of check-ins for our S.E.T. weekend is greater than the regular, daily nets. Now for a few numbers. This year the Phone nets had 13 check-ins on Saturday and 25 on Sunday. Sunday was a split time with a session at 7:30 immediately following the weather net and a session at the regular time of 8AM. Saturday there was 1 message handled and Sunday there were 4. The Sideband nets had 28 check-ins Saturday night with 6 messages and Sunday there were 23 check-ins with 6 messages handled.

As has been done for many years we added a matinee of the Phone net, this time on 75 meters. Propagation in the middle of the day on 75 is not coastal by any means and we wanted to see what conditions were like. Nine of us were there, Nate in Marysville was strong back at Cary's in Kansas City, and Net Manager Richard was heard well by District 1 EC AK0A, Ken in Topeka.

Participation messages were originated by KE0DL, K0RCJ and N0ALN

Other stats are we had about a dozen stations using emergency power of some form, battery or gasoline generator. Another thing the ARRL looks for is new licensee participation.

This year Kansas had 5 that fit the criteria on our section nets. I looked at the counties this year and find 23 were represented.

What does all this mean? We have a couple dozen counties with operators that can get on 75 meters and communicate amongst each other. We still need a reliable way to connect the East half of the state with the Western counties. Sideband Net participation is holding and several newer operators have joined in.

Another aspect of the S.E.T. is the A.R.E.S. groups performing exercises or drills and interfacing with NTS. I know there were a few counties holding drills this year, perhaps those reports will be available next month.

73,

Ron Cowan

ARRL Kansas Section Manager



Tom's Key Strokes - WØEAJ

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

radio@daileyservices.com

WØUTS DE WØEAJ.. .. 73 es SK AR

Last month I wrote about connections... the way that some of `em cause problems, and the way that others seem to enhance our hobby...and lives.

This past week, I got word that a treasured connection; one that I've had for over Fifty Four Years (yeah, that IS a long time!), is no more, at least in the conventional sense that we think of them.

I'm speaking of the euphemism that we in this hobby of ours, call a "Silent Key". More than a few times since I became a ham (Summer of 1962), I've read the Silent Key page in QST magazine, or read the notices in "Larry's List", or in more recent times, in the Kansas Amateur

Radio newsletter. You know, those "other guys" that other people know, that I'd never heard of before. We'd read of what they did in their lives, their many accomplishments... maybe a bit about their families, and the like. Ahhh, but they never quite hit "that" button of a personal memory you have OF that person.

Well kids, this one's personal – My buddy of 54+ years was my friend Bert Voth WØUTS ("Under The Sink"). Bert and I began our friendship at the old KING RADIO CORP in Olathe, IS... both of us having been positioned DIRECTLY across the bench from one-another, so that if we looked over the top of some of the test equipment, but under the shelf with MORE test equipment, there was about a 1 ½" sliver of space, through which we could sneak a few conversational lines, or better yet... shoot rubber bands at each other's throats in those unsuspecting moments. The other loathsome trick that sometimes got played was to use a piece of Teflon tubing (we used it to insulate the occasional component lead from a circuit path), carefully run UNDER the thick-plank bench surface, to a crack between the planks that "just happened" to correspond with the placement of a fresh product (DME, VHF transceiver, VHF Omnirange, Autopilot, or other avionic equipment) that the unsuspecting technician on the other side of the bench wouldn't notice.

See, back in early 1966, you could STILL smoke in the workplace, so gathering a nice mouthful of fresh smoke, you'd blow it into the tube and send it on it's merry way to the aforementioned other side, so the poor chap trying to check out the equipment, would suddenly see a cloud of smoke, arising from that nice new pretty radio, and be absolutely CONVINCED that you'd fried the darned thing. Bert and I also invented "The Double Surprise"... see we had these large 30-50 amp unregulated DC supplies to run the radios from, and were trained NEVER to simply turn them on... rather to bring the large Variac knob (thus the output 14 or 28 vdc output) on the front up s-l-o-w-l-y... the idea being that if you saw the current rising quicker than it was SUPPOSED to, you could back it down without damaging the equipment... well, yeah... we all got lazy and simply flipped the breaker and turned 'em ON – Okay, in your mind's eye... picture a 10 ohm, quarter-watt resistor WITH an AG-1 flashbulb (remember those?) across it, cleverly placed across the rear terminals of the test interface that fed the product... yep, when you flipped that 30a breaker, the bulb would flash, and the acrid scent of burning resistor would fill the nostrils... convincing you that you'd just FRIED whatever it was you happened to be trying to test.

Bert took great joy in laughing his head off at such antics. Oh, there were occasional accidental discoveries too, such as the production line having installed a pair of large electrolytic caps into a power supply... backwards. I recall seeing some of the chaps with a hairdo full of aluminum bits and tar-paper... Bert once had his glasses covered with hot tar from them... of COURSE, we laughed like crazy at such sport.

Some years later, when I flew and sold airplanes and still dabbled in avionics, I'd sometimes have sobering thoughts about the guys who'd built the radio gear that I DEPENDED UPON when the sky would get "thick"... hmmm, I hope they cared as much about meeting specs as WE DID!

Subsequent to those times of 1966 and others from 1969 to 1971, we stayed in touch. Heck, the first contact in my FIRST [personal] logbook from my LISTED address was from WAØPWE ("Pink & White Elephants" – his old call), and it was with a Heathkit Twoer using a coat-hanger ground plane antenna. Having gotten my license while in the Navy, I'd always had

access to club stations, so I didn't have MY first contact (with my own call) till that silly "Benton Harbor Lunch Box" I put together.

Over the many years, we always stayed in touch and found a way to connect, either via 75 or 40 meters or on the Salina & K-link 2 repeater(s). On my many trips to-and-from Kansas City from Denver (and back) over the course of 40+ years, I'd always look forward to hooking up with Bert, so we could have coffee, lunch, breakfast, or even just to talk together.

Yeah, as the years went on (and our hair got greyer... and his got thinner!), there were always the same laughs, in addition to helping each other fix some problem we had in a piece of ham gear... He once sent me home with half-a-trunkful of old Gonsets and other "leftovers" from "ye olden daze", which my wife found to be in that mysterious category of "what the heck is THAT stuff?" (and "whaddya gonna' do with THAT?") I still have a TenTek 6m transverter I finally got figured out for him, and now I have nobody to send it back to.

I grew to know about his family, and he grew to know about mine... he and his wife Vel even took a detour from Rossville, KS (where I spent a large portion of my childhood) to go up some country roads to visit the small hilltop cemetery where my Dad, Uncles, and Grandparents rested... Who ELSE would do that sort of thing, but a ham, eh?

Yeah, I suspect there are those who say that this sort of thing should have appeared in the "Silent Key" section, but it's MY column, and I think it really DOES have to do with "connections". I mean, when the other guy keys the microphone and you can hear his wife telling him it's time for dinner, or maybe (as I've written before) you hear his dog barking or a door slam, you've just become PART of his family, and been welcomed into his life...and theirs. You can almost smell the dinner cooking, or the heavenly scent of fresh coffee when those moments occur... and even though it's all going through a piece of coaxial cable at some point, and turning into electrical energy in space... it's personal...

...and Bert, someday we'll sit across the bench from each other again... and laugh like teenagers at silly stuff that people down here on Earth are still doing... and we'll know

That connection NEVER broke. ... WØUTS DE WØEAJ.. .. 73 es SK AR

Tom

Mine Creek Hamfest Canceled

Mine Creek hamfest for next year is cancelled due to the virus. The current health concerns have caused us to fall on the side of common sense. We look forward to getting together down the road.

73,
Ron Cowan
KBØDTI