



# QSP



June 2013

QSP On-Line at: <http://www.centalksarc.com/qsppage.htm>

The June Meeting is  
Friday June 28th at  
KWU's Peters Science  
Hall Room 211

## June VE Report

7:30 PM

For the **June 12th** session, we had 4 Candidates. Nathan Goossen, KDØVWO of Hesston, Tim Kucharo, KDØVWP, of Sedgwick, Nathan Kucharo, KDØVWR, of Sedgwick, and Michael Williamson, KDØVWQ of Ft Riley all passed their Technician Exams. Three of the 4 also tried for their General Class License, but did not make it (some were Very Close)! Congratulations to All!

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VE's in attendance were: Sid, NØOBM, Paul, KS1P, Alvin, WØME, Don, KAØEIC, and Leon, WAØJFC

The "New" Air conditioner for the Sheriff's Office Classroom was NOT working very well for the Exam session or the Board Meeting!

The next scheduled session is **Wednesday July 10th**, at **7:00 PM**, at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

Sid NØOBM VE Team Leader

## Minutes of the Meetings

The meeting was opened at 7:31 pm by Alvin, WØME followed by the Pledge Of Allegiance and introductions. 19 members and guests were present. As something a little different to try, Each person gave their main source of news / communications at their house. March's minutes were approved as written in QSP.

No treasurer report  
No VEC report

Hamfest report:

Ron, WAØPSF reported that the club will be able to setup for the Hamfest around 7pm Saturday evening. Also there will be a 7 PM meal served Saturday evening at Webster. \$15.00 meal Saturday evening – extra cost is to help defer the cost of the speaker for that evening – WGØAT – who will have a good program on contesting. Lunch on Sunday will be in conjunction with the QCWA dinner – Cost is \$8.50 per person. Vendors will be able to set up Saturday evening . Also the WOUFF HONG ceremony is planned for Midnight Saturday. This is the first offered in Kansas for some time that we know of. All are welcome to attend.

Mark, KBØMQX asked about putting out a donation box for coffee. This was approved.

Old Business:

Trailer sale – It was brought up to remove the masts, tower sections, and extra tools and items from the trailer before the sale of the trailer / generator. Eric, NØYET looked into selling on PurpleWave.com – cost was 5% of final sale but with no minimum bid. It was brought up about possibly selling it at the Hamfest. Alvin, WØME made the motion that if nobody comes forth with any definite ideas to him before the Board meeting May 8, he will suggest a course of action at that time and the board will make the final decision.

New business:

Robert, WBØWTM – brought up that he will be recording Field Day for Community Access TV of Salina. If anybody does not want to be filmed please let him know.

Field Day update – Alvin brought up that he was in contact with the Parks and Recreation Commission. They will waive the fees and allow staying overnight pending approval from the police department and county. They will let us know. Indian Rock is still the primary site we are requesting. Lakewood Park the 2nd choice followed by Thomas Park .

Next month – May 31 meeting at KWU. Silent Key memorial. Starts at **6:30 PM** early this month. This will be a Pot Luck dinner. Please bring something to share.

John is reserving the meeting room at KWU for the next full year.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

Alvin, WØME had refreshments. No program tonight.

## Reminders

City of Salina Siren Test Net, **July 1st** at 4:30 PM if the Weather cooperates! Otherwise July 8th.

ARRL-VEC Test Session on Wednesday **July 10th** at 7:00 PM.

Board meeting follows the exam session on **July 10th** after Testing in the Saline Co. Sheriff's Office Classroom.

**CKARC** Meeting is **July 26th** at 7:30 PM at KWU's Peters Science Hall Room 211.

There is a full Calendar of Events on the CKARC Web site <http://www.centalksarc.com>

Kansas State Convention is August 18th at Webster Conference Center

## Generator Trailer Sold—Locally

The CKARC Generator and Trailer have been sold. The Trailer was cleaned out of all loose items (**INCLUDING the Tower Sections and all Power Cords**) prior to it's removal from the Club Storage area at the Airport.

## The Un-Club

David Gauger, W9CJS

*Sometimes the best way to reenergize a club is to deformalize it.*

### Un-Club

Most of us have been, or are, in one or more clubs. Perhaps you are a member of one or more such groups. My experience with clubs is mixed, some good, but frankly, most have been poor to bad. Let me describe what I call our Un-Club — a club-like group who have widely divergent activities and interests but who are drawn together each week by our love for ham radio. Perhaps our experience will help you to generate more interest in your club's activities.

### False Start

Some 10 years ago, Chuck Towner, AE9CT, sponsored a meeting in Palatine, Illinois of many of the hams in the area to discuss boosting interest in local ham club activity. I volunteered to help and we held one meeting to try to pull a club together. It didn't seem to jell and despite Chuck's considerable effort, interest was simply not there. While pursuing this effort, Chuck and I decided to meet for breakfast and chat about other courses of action.

### We Grew

Chuck and I hit it off well and several others soon joined us at the restaurant until we had a nice congenial group of half a dozen hams, all eating breakfast and drinking too much coffee. It didn't dawn on me at the time that this group was in essence the fledgling beginning of an "Un-Club."

Why do I say Un-Club? Well-run clubs are delightful, but in my personal experience most ham clubs fall short of that goal. I recall plainly how I attended a meeting of a local ham club where we discussed the method for electing the president for the entire meeting. I never returned to that club. They were caught up in the machinery of the club rather than promoting and emphasizing its purpose.

In our Un-Club breakfast group we weren't interested in a club — we just wanted to get together weekly, enjoy the fellowship and the food, and talk about many things, including ham radio. Interestingly, this format must have attracted others because our numbers steadily grew.

### Helping Hams

In Palatine, Illinois, there is a very strong sense of volunteerism for community events. To that end, and spearheaded by newly appointed Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Coordinator Tom Smith, KB9ZTL, (a recently retired commander in the Palatine Police Department) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training was established.

We conducted CERT training for a many civic minded citizens who could then support the activities of neighbors and the local police and fire authorities. CERT training included search and rescue, damage estimation, triage assistance for medical people and CPR certification.

In addition, CERT trained volunteers became available for emergency traffic control and to act as eyes and ears for the police during parades and special community events.

### **EmComm Communication**

In one of their Simulated Emergency Tests the CERT participants found that the Family Radio Service radios being used didn't have sufficient range to keep them in contact with the control station. In considering the problem, we realized that if we all got ham licenses, we could use higher power for fixed or mobile stations and also access the local repeater, thus greatly expanding the communications coverage.

### **Training Classes**

As a result, Chuck advertised a 7 week class for participants to earn their Technician license using ARRL<sup>®</sup> *Ham Radio License Manual* and the *Instructor's Manual*. Interest was significant and immediate. We held our first class and perhaps 10 people passed the test for the Technician license. The success of the first class led to additional classes, twice per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Each class has had enrollments of 10-16 students and, in most cases, those who stuck out the 7 weeks passed their Technicians test.

Most classes were for the Technician license, but we've also offered General class theory and Morse code. To date, we've held six classes and have over 50 licensees to show for our effort, including several General class and three Extra class upgrades. Most of these new ham radio licensees have become active members of Palatine's rapidly expanding ARES<sup>®</sup> /RACES group, which exists, in part, to support the EMA structure and the CERT trained volunteers.

A number of our licensees have taken the ARRL *Introduction to Emergency Communication* (EC-001) online training courses and in some cases have finished all three levels of training. Others are currently working toward that end.

### **SMART Saturday**

Chuck works as manager at the park district facility and during the winter months the facility is lightly used and we meet there on Saturday mornings. He has named it SMART (Saturday Morning Amateur Radio Time). These are great times to get together and play with the rigs, portable antennas and so on.

Often times we've spent a couple hours helping newbie hams program their hand-held transceivers, which as we all know can be a bit confusing to the neophyte. On another occasion, a number of us built and tuned twin-lead J-pole antennas for the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands. Meanwhile, back at the restaurant, newbie hams have joined our group. Many who are still working cannot attend, but retirees and some wives can and do join us. Our typical attendance at breakfast runs 10-18 people. Occasionally, some have brought to breakfast a piece of unneeded ham hardware and have asked if anyone can use it. Often it's just what someone in the group needs, with the added bonus of being free.

For several years, Bill Farmer, K9BTF, has spearheaded a Field Day effort that has grown over the years. At our last Field Day we had three pop-up trailers and over 30 participants. Visitors included a number of scouts, a local Palatine councilman and other notables. Operating under the special event call W9P we scored 4384 points in the 2A category. Another year we participated in Winter Field Day and a few of us operated from the author's home using SSB and PSK all on battery power.

Are we a club? In the strict sense of the definition (*An association of persons for some common object, jointly supported and meeting periodically.*" — Webster's Collegiate Dictionary), yes, we are a club.

### **Organization, What Organization?**

No one has ever suggested that we formalize our group with officers and a bank account. What drives the group is the willingness of various members to step up and spearhead an activity. Tom, KB9ZTL, as Palatine City emergency coordinator has helped with civic approvals for Field Day sites and training sessions at the EOC Emergency Center.

### **What's the Appeal?**

What is it that keeps the group going? It is probably the *lack* of formal organizational structure as much as anything. In our Un-Club members have the freedom to participate or not, in any or all activities. We don't concern ourselves with dues or minutes, but only with the breakfast camaraderie — just plain fun.

So What Might Breathe New Life Into Your Club? Think about these:

If your club is atrophying; if it is staid and lacks interest, perhaps it needs less structure.

If the officers sit at the front table and the members are an audience, then something's wrong.

If the treasurer takes 10 minutes to detail where every penny went, then something's wrong.

If the same people are in leadership roles time and again, then something's wrong.

If your club is so focused on *winning* Field Day as to exclude newer members from operating various modes because of *established teams*, then something's wrong.

Perhaps a breakfast meeting would be an answer for your club. Food attracts everyone. Eating is a pleasant and necessary activity, so why not make it a ham oriented meal. It may be on a weekday such as ours, or a weekend — whatever fits your situation.

If you hold your Un-Club at a restaurant then you have:

No need for a speaker

No postage for newsletters and dues reminders

No bank account, no records keeping

No expenses to pay, no treasurer

Perhaps something here rings a bell with you. Perhaps you see ways to improve what we've done or at least adapt some ideas to your situation. Few hobbies have such a wide variety of activities and eclectic areas of interest as ham radio. The possibilities are endless. EmComm, Field Day, construction, antennas, mobile, satellites, EME, contests, conventions, training, ham-fests and the list goes on.

Why not try an Un-Club.

*Dave Gauger, W9CJS, an ARRL member, was first licensed in 1948 and has held W9CJS since then except for a short period as KF9X. Dave was educated as a teacher with a BS from Northern Illinois University and an MS in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. He taught in public schools from 1958-1963 and then became chief electronics engineer at Littelfuse, Inc until his retirement in 1995. Now he teaches physics, electronics, aviation, photography and ham radio at a private school.*

*Dave and his wife have six children and one, David II, is WB9BMM. During the 1970s his musical family entertained at the Dayton Hamvention three different years as The Gauger Brass. Dave spoke at Dayton once on the subject of WEFAX (weather fax) reception using a five turn helix antenna on an azimuth-elevation mount. You can contact Dave at 3900 Bluebird Lane S, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008, [w9cjs@arrrl.net](mailto:w9cjs@arrrl.net)*

*From the ARRL Web site Archives.*

*Printed by Request.*

## June 2013 Contest Calendar

### From the WA7BNM Contest Calendar

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
<b>10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party</b>	0001Z, Jul 1 to 2400Z, Jul 7
RSGB 80m Club Championship, <b>CW</b>	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 2
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, Jul 4 ( <b>CW</b> ) and 1800Z-1900Z, Jul 4 ( <b>SSB</b> ) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 4 ( <b>FM</b> ) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jul 4 ( <b>Dig</b> )
MI QRP July 4th <b>CW</b> Sprint	2300Z, Jul 4 to 0300Z, Jul 5
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z, Jul 6 to 2359Z, Jul 7
DL-DX <b>RTTY</b> Contest	1100Z, Jul 6 to 1059Z, Jul 7
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jul 6 to 1500Z, Jul 7
PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint	2000 local, Jul 6 to 0200 local, Jul 7
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Jul 7
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Jul 10
RSGB 80m Club Championship, <b>SSB</b>	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 10
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jul 13 to 2400Z, Jul 14
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 13 to 1200Z, Jul 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jul 18
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 18
DMC <b>RTTY</b> Contest	1200Z, Jul 20 to 1200Z, Jul 21
<b>Feld Hell</b> Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, Jul 20
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 20 to 2100Z, Jul 21
North American QSO Party, <b>RTTY</b>	1800Z, Jul 20 to 0600Z, Jul 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 24
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 27 to 1200Z, Jul 28
<b>US Counties QSO Party</b>	1400Z-2400Z, Jul 27 and 1400Z-2400Z, Jul 28
<b>New Jersey QSO Party</b>	1600Z, Jul 27 to 0400Z, Jul 28 and 1300Z-2000Z, Jul 28

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Your copy of QSP is Here!

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**@ 7:30 PM, at KWU Peters Science Hall Room 211**

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**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE JULY QSP IS JULY 18, 2013**

## **CKARC July Birthdays**

KDØKYD	Michelle	Vought	7/5
KDØIRW	Tanner	Colvin	7/11
NØUU	Lawrence	Stoskopf	7/17
F/Member	Jo Ann	Stoskopf	7/17
F/Member	Kathleen	Tremblay	7/17
KCØNZM	Dale	Wilson	7/20
KBØNOV	Neil	Cox	7/20
KDØIUH	Greg	Roberts	7/21
KAØSLC	Charles	Matthews	7/28