



# QSP



March 2010

## Dean Speaks, KDØFRP Silent Key

The March Meeting is  
Friday, March 30, 2010  
@ 7:30 PM, at KWU  
Peters Science Hall  
Room 211

Host: Robert,  
WBØWTM

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Dean Speaks, KDØFRP, Saline County’s Deputy Director of Emergency Management, died Monday, March 8th, 2010.

Speaks, 52, was found dead at his Salina apartment about 4 PM. by Saline County sheriff’s officers who had gone to check on him after he failed to show up for work and he had not been in touch with his office, Sheriff Glen Kochanowski said.

Speaks had been ill with respiratory problems for at least a week and a half, Kochanowski said. He had seen a doctor for treatment last week, but could hardly speak, the sheriff said.

Speaks was formerly a Beloit resident. He was hired as Deputy Emergency Management Director in October 2003. He served as Interim Director of the office from June 2009, when Director Bryan Armstrong retired, to Jan. 11, 2010, when the new Director, Joe Koch started work.

Kochanowski said an autopsy was being conducted Tuesday (3-9-10) in Topeka to determine the cause of Speaks’ death, results are still “pending”. Funeral services were Friday March 12th, at the Beloit First Christian Church, provided by the McDonald Funeral Home of Beloit.

Dean has been studying for his General Class exam, and had hoped to pass the exam in the next few months. Dean was very active with the ARES Group, and was always trying to find ways to get others involved. He will be missed.

At the March CKARC Board meeting, it was decided to donate \$50.00 to the Coronado Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, on Dean’s behalf.

A special Thanks to all those that went the “extra miles” to attend Dean’s (and his Mother’s) funeral.

*Sid NØOBM*

## Minutes of the February Meeting

The February meeting of the Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Robert, WBØWTM at 7:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a round of Introductions with 26 Members and Guests present.

Reports:

The Secretary's minutes were approved as printed in QSP.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 502.86
Savings Account Balance:	\$3736.30
Total	\$4239.16

EC & VE Report:

Pending activities for the month of March were listed by the EC Sid, NØOBM. He also reminded us of other upcoming events this spring & early summer—Eisenhower Marathon in Abilene on April 10, ARC Bike-a-Thon on May 1, Smoky Hill River Festival June 11—13th, and of course Field Day June 26 & 27.

While there was no one for testing at the regular session for February, the following evening, a "Special" session was held at KWU. This was a successful session, with 7 applicants testing, and 6 passing at least 1 exam. Mark, KBØMQX, and John, KCØJNK were among those testing, and both upgraded to General. "Jackson" Chen, KDØKLI also passed both Tech and General tests. New Tech's are Dean, KDØKIQ, Nick, KDØKIR, and Andrew, KDØKIS. Congratulations to all!

Dean Speaks, KDØFRP, also reported that Emergency Management has ordered 2 new Kenwood TS-480SAT HF Radios (with 270 Hz Filters) for the Emcomm Trailer and the Communications Room in Emergency Management.

Repeater Report: None

There was no Old Business brought up for discussion.

New Business:

Glen, WØYVR, announced that he is stepping down as Trustee for the KWU Club Station, and that John, KCØJNK, will be replacing him. John has announced his intentions of upgrading to Extra for the KWU Club's benefit (among other reasons!).

Dean Speaks, KDØFRP also announced that his last day with Emergency Management will be March 19, 2010. He does not yet have another job, but has had several offers—most in the Salina area, where he intends to stay.

With no other business to present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Virgil, NØXRS provided refreshments.

There was no program this evening

Sid, NØOBM (filling in for Alvin, WØME)

## March VE Report

### For the March 10th Session:

We had Two Candidates: Andrew Johnson, KDØKUM, of Manhattan, and Larry Papenfuss, KDØKLN, of Hutchinson. Andrew is a new Tech, and Larry attempted to upgrade to General. Unfortunately, Larry was not successful in his attempt, but we're sure he will try again soon with better luck. Andrew also attempted the General, but not having studied for it, did not pass.

VE's present were: Sid, NØOBM, Ron, WAØPSF, Alvin, WØME, Don, KAØEIC, and Eric, NØYET.

There will be another KWU Test Session on March 23rd, but that is after this issue of QSP goes to "press" - we will report on that session in next month's QSP.

Thanks to all the VE's who helped with the Exam Sessions. I appreciate the help, and so do those who take the exams.

Next Exam session is **Wednesday April 14th, 2010**, at 7:00 PM, at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

Sid NØOBM VE Team Leader

## Saline County Emergency Management Amateur Radio Exercise

This month's activity isn't a contest. Some time Saturday, the Stormspotter network will be activated for a drill that will be Weather Related. Since Storm season is rapidly approaching, and Dispatch has failed to test the Storm Spotter Pagers for the past couple of weeks.. The Pagers will most likely get set off. Spotters will be directed to report to several locations throughout Saline County in order to test their ability to report back in to the Emergency Management Communications Center. We will be testing both via repeaters, and via Simplex.

## Reminders

**City of Salina Siren Test Net, April 5th** at 4:30 PM on the NØKSC Repeater (147.270+) if the Weather cooperates! *[If it's above 32 degrees!]*

ARES Net **April 6th at 8:00 PM** on the NØKSC Repeater (147.270+ no tone)

Eisenhower Marathon in Abilene, Ks **April 10th** at 0700

**ARRL-VEC Test Session** on Wednesday **April 14th at 7:00 PM.**

**Board meeting** follows the exam session on **April 14th** at 8:00 PM (or after Testing—which ever is later) in the Saline Co. Sheriff's Office Classroom.

**ARES Meeting is April 15th at 8:00 PM in the EOC.**

**CKARC Meeting April 30th** at 7:30 PM at KWU's Peters Science Hall.

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

### Got something you'd like to see in QSP?

**Get it to the Editor before the 3rd Wednesday of the month, and we will work it in if we can.**

**Copyrighted material must have a release.**

**Got Pictures? If there is room we will print them.**

Not getting notifications of QSP being Published? Your Birthday not listed on the back page of QSP?

Getting your copy of QSP by Mail—and don't need it? Want your copy of QSP delivered by Mail?

Then it is most likely that the Editor does not have:

A.) Your current email address.

B.) Your Birthdate. (I don't need the YEAR, just the Month & Day—and the Treasurer needs to know IF you just happen to be over 65—Something about ARRL Membership rates (I think).

C.) Let the Editor know, and we can save the CKARC some \$\$

D.) I'll add your name to the mailing list if you really need it that way

Sid Ashen-Brenner QSP Editor NØOBM [obm@centalksarc.com](mailto:obm@centalksarc.com) or [n0obm@n0obm.org](mailto:n0obm@n0obm.org) or [sashen@swbell.net](mailto:sashen@swbell.net) Phone (after 5 PM and before 10 PM) 785-823-6560

## Resurrecting a Club Station

By

Eric Nichols, KL7AJ

Can a once-notable Amateur Radio station be restored to its former glory? Absolutely! All it takes is a lot of work, tenacity, vision, cheap labor, and time! In other words, a resurrection from the dead.

It's been long said that Amateur Radio interest follows the sunspot cycles. This has always been the case to some degree. However, during the last seemingly unending solar outage, several factors seemed to have conspired to create the perfect storm of ham indifference.

Web 2.0, for all practical purposes, came into existence while the Sun was out to lunch. Ham radio has enough competition from titillating technology even when it *works*. When it DOESN'T work...well, we need not elaborate much on this.

On the local front...for many years the monster triband Yagi at Hutchison Career Institute was a landmark of the University district of Fairbanks, Alaska. It was there when I first moved up here from 6-land in 1976, and was certainly in place well before then. "Hutch" has always been Interior Alaska's premier trade school, and the ham radio club was always a big part of that.

As often happens, the driving force behind the Hutch club station was one dedicated teacher, who eventually retired. The club ran a few years on momentum, but by the mid 1980s had become a mere skeleton of its former self. In fact, the Electronics program itself had pretty much fizzled out in favor of teaching Computer technology...which is fine...it's just not really electronics.

About four years ago, some major administrative changes took place at Hutch. Previously an independent trade school, part of it became annexed to the University of Alaska's Tanana Valley Community College, (TVCC), while the other half became a magnet high school. The name was changed to Hutchison Institute of Technology. The building was remodeled and the ancient, venerable ham tower was removed. However, despite the initial shock, the changes couldn't have been better for Hutch Ham Station, v 2.0. It just took a while to realize it.

About three years ago, I approached the Hutch powers-that-be about resurrecting the club station. I was directed to the teacher of multimedia. They had a very well-equipped closed circuit student TV station...actually FAR superior to what I encountered in any commercial TV station in Fairbanks! I presented my case to the instructor, suggesting that it might be a good place to set up a new ham station; it seemed to fit right in with what they were doing. There was space, and there was a budget. Unfortunately, despite my well-crafted, passionate plea, and my supplying the instructor with nine pounds of ARRL materials explaining what ham radio was, as well and how it fit in with the curriculum, he still remained clueless.

So, my schemes languished and fizzled for almost two years. What seemed to hold great promise turned into a monumental flop.

What happened after that was MUCH better than I'd anticipated.

About two years ago, Roger Weggel, the head of the aero sciences department, approached me and asked if I was interested in resurrecting the electronics program, mainly as applied to avionics. I said sure. I asked if they'd be interested in an FCC license course as well. They were. I mentioned my interest in resurrecting the club station, as well. Roger said, "Have I got the place for you?" or words to that effect. Roger had remembered the old station, in a building which no longer existed. The suggested classroom was right above the airframe shop. It was filled with parts of vintage radial aircraft engines, a T-58 gas turbine, variable pitch props, and chunks of helicopter rotors. It was perfect! It had just the right "vibes" for a ham station. Far far better than the high-tech but sterile environment down in the multimedia area.

"What's it take to get an antenna up on top of this joint?" I asked.

"Officially or unofficially?" Roger said. I knew right away Roger was my kind of guy. A guy who got things done. And could work with his hands.

Actually, as it turned out, Roger very quickly not only got official approval for an antenna farm, but the physical plant people actually ran a 3" conduit for our cables all the way to the classroom. At district expense, no less!

It also didn't hurt to have three other faculty members in the Aero Sciences department who were licensed hams...though essentially inactive. I told them that was about to change.

In the fall of 2008 I taught my first FCC license class (both the GROL and ham tickets in one big wad) surrounded by engine parts. In between we started assembling a ham station in the back of the class...all donated equipment, some from me, some from other Arctic ARC members' private stashes. I told each of our licensed faculty members to give me a dime, after which I informed them that they were official dues-paying members of the Hutchison Amateur Radio Experimenters' Society, HARES. We applied for a club call, (the original call had been lost in antiquity), and were granted WL7CWY. I immediately requested, and was granted on Christmas Day 2009, KL7EX (for EXperimenters). It's the perfect callsign for what we do. It's a fabulous call on CW, as well!

Word of mouth is getting around. The Arctic Amateur Radio Club, which has been around since the 1930s, but has NEVER had a permanent club station, has semi-adopted KL7EX as their club station. Tower sections and LMR400 and unused SB220's have been donated by the AARC members, as well. I have made it abundantly clear that NO newly license ham in Fairbanks has an excuse to not get on the air, as long as KL7EX exists. We hope this will stem the staggering attrition rate of new hams in the area. We want KL7EX to be a HOME for HAMS.

Of course, like any good ham station, KL7EX is a work in progress. We still need to erect a tower; as right now we just have a mass of dipoles, erected, for the most part, in the middle of winter! We have an antenna modeling and testing workshop, made possible, in part, by the airframe fabrication folks downstairs!

It's great that we are tied so closely with the aero folks. I try to convey that the various sciences and technologies are NOT isolated fields. My students learn that the universe is coherent and consistent. I can use a crankshaft from a radial engine to demonstrate sine waves, just as I can with an oscilloscope.

I see great things in the future for HARES and KL7EX. We plan on building a Moon-bounce station this summer. We're looking at a full-fledged avionics program in the next year or two. It's even been suggested that we could do some small manufacturing...sort of a mini MFJ operation, as part of the Industrial Arts program.

This is just one case study, which I'm sure has been repeated across the country. A ham club station CAN be a success. Even a formerly dead club station.

What we've learned in the process of getting community and administrative support is this: Don't try to oversell ham radio! We present it precisely as what it is...a fabulous, cost effective teaching tool, that belongs in every school...just as it has been for nearly a century. We don't compete with the fire department, the weather service, the police department, or TSA. We just do what we do best...open up new worlds to the curious.

73,

Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ, WD2XSH, NNNØAKA (Navy-Marine Corps MARS)

P.O. Box 56235

North Pole, AK 99705

*From eHam.net*

## March 2010 Contest Calendar

### From the WA7BNM Contest Calendar

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

SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 1
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 3 to 1500Z, Apr 4
<b>Missouri QSO Party</b>	1800Z, Apr 3 to 2400Z, Apr 4
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 10 to 1300Z, Apr 11
EU Spring Sprint, <b>CW</b>	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 10
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 10 to 2359Z, Apr 11
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Apr 11
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 17
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 17
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 17
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 17
<b>Michigan QSO Party</b>	1600Z, Apr 17 to 0400Z, Apr 18
<b>Ontario QSO Party</b>	1800Z, Apr 17 to 1800Z, Apr 18
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 17 to 1700Z, Apr 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 19
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, <b>CW</b>	0001Z, Apr 24 to 2359Z, Apr 25
SP DX <b>RTTY</b> Contest	1200Z, Apr 24 to 1200Z, Apr 25
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 24 to 1259Z, Apr 25
QRP to the Field	1500Z, Apr 24 to 0300Z, Apr 25
<b>Florida QSO Party</b>	1600Z, Apr 24 to 2159Z, Apr 25
<b>Nebraska QSO Party</b>	1700Z, Apr 24 to 1700Z, Apr 25

## ARRL Requests Support for Senate Bill 1755

Senate Bill 1755 -- *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009* introduced in October 2009 by Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) -- has unanimously passed the US Senate and has been sent to the US House of Representatives for consideration and now sits in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The ARRL is asking its membership to contact the leadership of the Energy and Commerce committee, requesting support and action on moving S 1755 through the committee. S 1755 accomplishes the same things as HR 2160; HR 2160 was introduced in April 2009 by Rep Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). Since S 1755 has already been approved by the Senate, moving it forward in the House will simplify the process.

S 1755 points out that "[t]here is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

If enacted into law, S 1755 would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study -- and report its findings to Congress within 180 days -- on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

The study shall:

- Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
- Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
- Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations, and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
- Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996)).
- Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose, in residential areas. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including Amateur Radio, emergency response and disaster communications.

Please contact Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA-30) and Ranking Member Joe Barton (R-TX-6), urging them to send this bipartisan bill to the House floor for adoption. A sample letter can be found [here](#). Send your letters urging consideration of S 1755 by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to Rep Waxman via fax at 202-225-2525, and to Rep Barton via fax at 202-225-1919. Also, please fax a copy of your letters to the ARRL's Washington representative, Chwat & Co at 703-684-7594.

For more information on S 1755, please visit the ARRL Government Relations Web page.

*From the ARRL Web site*

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[Http://www.centralksarc.com](http://www.centralksarc.com)

Your issue of QSP is Here!

**March Meeting is Friday, March 26, 2010**  
**@ 7:30 PM, at KWU**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE**  
**APRIL QSP IS APR. 20, 2010**

## **CKARC April Birthdays**

<b>F/Member</b>	<b>Merlene</b>	<b>Cornwell</b>	<b>4/1</b>
<b>KCØHHU</b>	<b>Sharon</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>4/7</b>
<b>F/Member</b>	<b>Diana</b>	<b>Gray</b>	<b>4/13</b>
<b>KAØDDY</b>	<b>Jennifer</b>	<b>Holcomb</b>	<b>4/13</b>
<b>NØXRS</b>	<b>Virgil</b>	<b>Yost</b>	<b>4/19</b>
	<b>Mike</b>	<b>Makins</b>	<b>4/21</b>
<b>KBØNOT</b>	<b>Geraldine</b>	<b>Eitel</b>	<b>4/28</b>
<b>WØME</b>	<b>Alvin</b>	<b>Wiechman</b>	<b>4/30</b>