

SMARC TELEGRAPH

Message From the President

SMARC Members,

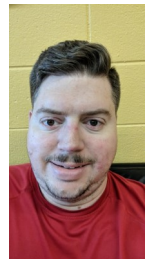
We are excited to publish our first issue of this newsletter. Back in January, I shared some of my thoughts and ideas of ways to lay a foundation of changes to grow our membership. We are exploring new ways to bring out our message to the community and support amateur radio operators in the Southwest Missouri.

With the redesigned website we introduced new features, such as joining or renew your membership online as well as accepting donations. We also introduced successful public events such as Tech Day, and in September we plan to host a kickoff event for Route 66 on the Air. We looking forward to introducing more events and new projects in the near future so stay tuned.

This newsletter is another way to share important club news and upcoming events of interest to amateur radio. Please bear with us as we develop this newsletter and in order to be successful, we need your help. We would love for members to contribute articles, pictures, tips and tricks, etc. Any member interested in being a regular contributor for content in upcoming issues, please visit our new website and contact us.

We hope you enjoy what we put together for you. Our hope is to make this an ongoing resource for you and bring additional value to your membership. Thank you for your support!!

73'
Rodney - K0FZ SMARC Club President



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The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of SMARC or it's Board Members.



SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL HAMS

NWS NAMES NEW COORDINATOR



The National Weather Service in Springfield has named Patti Flowers-Palmer (KD0AEL) as the new regional Skywarn coordinator. Skywarn members have delighted in welcoming her to her new vital position, watching over 37 counties in the southwest Missouri warned area. Taking care of such a large operation is not easy. Skywarn officials must stay up to date with the ever-changing weather throughout the region and beyond with weather products provided by the NWS. Not surprisingly, weather can change in an instant with pop up showers, a squall line, tornadic super cells or a number of other weather features.

Patti has been involved with Skywarn for over 12 years here in Southwest Missouri and works in the field spotting when necessary and as a net control operator on the NWS repeater system which serves all of the region through a network of 11 repeaters throughout southern Missouri, including Fordland and Joplin.

Patti's favorite hobby happens to be photography which she says is something she has always liked. "It goes hand in hand with spotting, I can get damage reports back to NWS quickly." Her most challenging element? "Avoiding politics. My personal challenge is not to take sides. To promote and support amateur radio throughout southwest Missouri."

Looking back over her 12 years the most devastating disaster she has worked through was the Joplin tornado when in 2011 a catastrophic EF-5 multi-vortex tornado hit Joplin, MO. "Multiple things made the event challenging" she recalls.

How does she manage all this? "I have this wonderful team of people trained as net control (operators). Some have come to us, others I helped to train along the way."

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Those interested in becoming involved with Skywarn as spotters are welcome to contact Patti who will get them in touch with their county's Skywarn team to further assist them. "We have

ASK SMARC

Any suggestions on a self-study course for General? I minored in EE so have a decent background on circuits, components, etc. –Richard

This is a great question Richard and there are a number of good answers to it. First, I recommend the Gordon West General Class study guide sold on Amazon and most book retailers. The ARRL General Class study guide is also an option. In addition to giving you all the questions on the test, the guides will give you the theory and reasoning behind the question so you can learn. This is preferred to using just the online tests to memorize because you will need the knowledge when you upgrade to Extra. There are also online practice tests you can take at sites such as my personal favorite is hamexam.org which also has flash cards for practice.

Send your questions to ASK SMARC at SMARC.ORG/contact-us/

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HAMFESTS

The Joplin Amateur Radio Club presents their 2019 annual hamfest once again being held at the Jack Lawton Webb Convention Center, off of I44 at exit 8. This is one of the largest hamfest's to come to the four states area and has been presented by JARC since 1990. 1700 square feet and 128 booths of vendors and food in the cool air conditioning will see hundreds of buyers and spectators. The event kicks off Friday, August 23rd 12 to 7:00 PM through Saturday 8:00 to 2:00 PM.

This year four great prizes will be awarded to ticket holders including an Icom 7300, a Yaesu FT-450D and two FTM-400XDR radios! For talk in to the event, visit the 147.210 + with tone 91.5 repeater. It will also feature shuttle updates and parking assistance.



Order tickets online at:

<http://joplinhamfest.org/>

SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

multiple Skywarn nets such as Barry-Lawrence County, Douglas County, and more.” She encourages them to also go on the Spotter Network online and go through their educational program as well as Met Ed spotter basics, both can be found online. “We then encourage them to join the spotter group Southwest Missouri regional Skywarn on Facebook.” She also has a You Tube presence with video’s including some from the NWS.

To all spotters, Patti warned of the incredible danger faced by spotters who go out at night. “First and foremost is safety any time you deploy! Make sure you have an easy (way) out and know your area. Check for persistent storms, lightening flashes, lowering clouds because you’re not going to be able to see rotation.” She adds that if you’re not sure, ask for help. “If you have a question pick up that mic and call and ask (what you need to). You can also get a radar read or advice. That’s what our radios are for.”

Skywarn, headed by the NWS, started after the first tornado warning was publicly issued. Before that time warnings were not issued to the public for fear of mass panic. It was only after they released a warning to the public and they reacted in a positive manner that Skywarn was formed of volunteers. “It started with small volunteer fire departments” patti says, With the advent of NEXRAD radar it was clear communications with the public was a must. Today, we have vast networks of volunteers across America helping protect their communities in coordination with local NWS offices. For further information contact Patti at KD0AEL@gmail.com. She succeeds Jim Sellars (N0UAM) now SK.





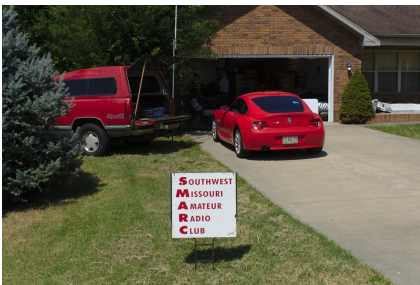
TECH DAY III

Quarter three tech day was another opportunity for hams to get their radio's and other equipment looked at and, in many cases, fixed. The event, hosted by Jordan Justice (N0RK), saw radios brought in for a check up and some needed repair work. Programming radio's for people was done by Steve Palmer (KA0SPM). Many members and guests attended the free event which is held every quarter by SMARC. Hams shared tips and information with each other and had a great time getting to know each other better at the day long event which lasted into the night.

Special guest Bob Heil of Heil Sound also visited the event and watched radio repairs in action. Mr. Heil provided a great deal of support for field day 2019 to the club, including providing prizes for the big drawing and an Icom 7300 radio for use in the annual event sponsored by the ARRL.

Visitors enjoyed lunch and dinner at the event with a variety of delicious food, including Chicken Cordon Bleu for dinner as well as homemade cake, cookies and other sweet treats.

Club officials were happy with the event's success and look forward to seeing hams and those with an interest in the hobby at next quarter's tech day with the date to be announced in the near future.



*HAMS HELPING HAMS
HELPING OUR
COMMUNITIES*

SAVING THE 49 REPEATER



The 49 Repeater Group is seeking donations to help save the 49 repeater (N0NWS) in Fordland before it completely fails. For some time now the 145.49 repeater has been operating at very low power making it difficult to reach from remote areas due to antenna failure. “If we are unable to secure the funding for this much-needed tower work the 145.49 repeater will go off the air and cease to exist,” the 49 Group say in a recent announcement.

The goal is \$55,000 and records indicate they have raised \$37,532 as of press time. Why so much? The group explains their tower is much higher (1,000 Ft.) than many others and that the labor for such a repair crew carries a hefty price tag. That, combined with a new antenna, and running transmission lines hundreds of feet up because they also suffered damage. The 145.49 repeater is the hub of the NWS repeater system.

To donate to the cause please visit N0NWS.com website where a variety of options are offered to make your donation.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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<http://smarc.org/contact-us/>

SAFETY FIRST AND
ALWAYS

TOWER SAFETY

On July 25th ham radio operator Joseph Areyzega fell from a tower in an unfortunate accident in Deerfield, NH and died from his injuries. The ham was disassembling a 40 Ft. tower, a simple enough task most amateurs would concede. But it's not always that simple. It remains unknown exactly how the man died though he was reportedly wearing a safety line.

It was only April 19th of last year the KOZK TV 1,000 Ft. tower collapsed killing Steve Lemay, the crew's foreman. The goal of that tower work was to make the tower stronger by replacing diagonal braces to help support an additional antenna, known as repacking in the industry. Many times, ham radio repeater antennas are mounted on these towers as well.

These are just two examples of serious accidents hams should keep in mind when doing tower work, especially in weather extremes. Investigators noted some things to keep in mind when working on a tower. First, have a good plan that is safe and sound. Make sure you always wear a safety line. Maintain routine maintenance on the tower as well. Never work on a tower alone.

As towers age they can suddenly show the effects of design flaws, manufacturing mistakes, maintenance shortcomings and other human errors, which are hidden until metal fatigue sets in or a particularly brutal storm rolls by.

There have been some 45 towers collapse since the year 2000 in the United States, and these are just the ones that have made news, the total number of exclusive ham towers that have fallen remains unknown according to the FCC.

