



ARRL Midwest Division Newsletter October 2019



Worked FROM All Counties

by Ward Silver, N0AX

While I can't say I've activated all the counties in the US as a (very) few hams have managed to do, I have lit up all 114 of the Missouri counties (and the city of St Louis) during the annual Missouri QSO Party which is sponsored by the Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society (BEARS - <http://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party>) in early April. (The next one is April 4-5, 2020.) I did one year (2011) as a solo operation and in the subsequent years, my wife, Ellen Zerr KDØPES, did a bunch of the driving and made a lot of helpful observations from the driver's seat (see photo).

We started out in the NE counties, then migrated south of I-70 and I-44. Then it was time to hit the SW corner - we visited George Washington Carver's Birthplace Memorial near Diamond, as well. That took a couple of years and we took two more to finish up in the NW part of the state, staying overnight in Marceline, the birthplace of Walt Disney and the inspiration for Disneyland's Main Street. We finally finished the list with Cole County on US 50 in 2018.

Why do this? Well, it's a lot of fun to go places you would otherwise never go, looking for the shortest path through as many counties as possible during the contest period. I also like to operate from county lines, where each QSO counts double. In our rambles, we've seen glacial erratic boulders, camels and llamas (no silk pajamas), interesting little towns (Cheapskate isn't far from Fair Play, by the way), Amish buggies and farms, and an amazing range of geography. During the National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) event, we also activated the Trail of Tears (TR-12) national trail. You also get to be DX for a Day with stations following you on your route from all over - even Europeans call in!

I kept the equipment simple: an Icom IC-7000 and either Hamstick whips or a Little Tarheel II screwdriver mobile antenna. When stopped at night I operated on 80 meters, clipping extra wire to the antennas to give them a little extra punch. A laptop took care of the logging (I use N1MM+) and generates a nice clean log for the sponsors.

You don't need a full mobile setup to start rambling. You can try portable (entering the Mobile category) by stopping in a few counties at a park or wayside and setting up a temporary antenna. Just look for big towers - they're always on high spots and have driveways or parking areas. Get both a folding Missouri map (maybe a spare, since the photo shows what happens to



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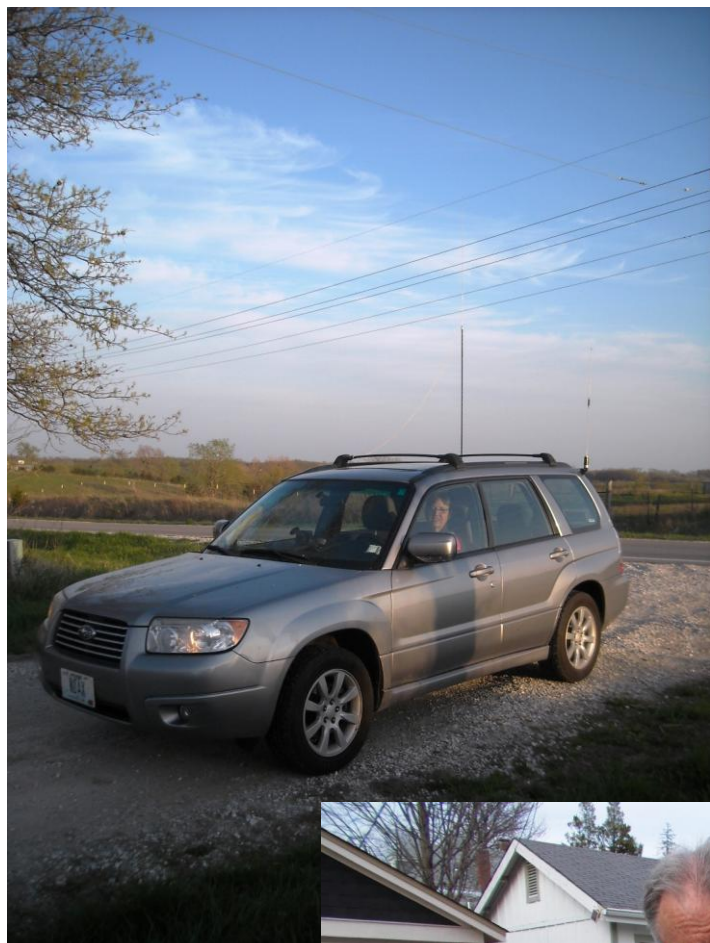
them after a couple of mobile runs) and a copy of the Missouri Gazetteer (<https://store.randmcnally.com/delorme-atlas-gazetteer-missouri.html>) to help you find the back roads and by-ways that are a lot of fun and usually quite scenic. Keep a notebook handy to note places of interest that you might want to visit another time - you'll discover neat stuff you never knew existed. When you get home, use a marker to trace out your route, just like the explorers in your social studies classes.

I have to warn you that mobile operation in state QSO parties is addictive! Pretty soon you'll be casting an eye on your neighboring states for their contests. I've been known to take the Golden Eagle ferry over to the somewhat isolated Calhoun County in Illinois which has some pretty good radio locations! Now that we have colored in all the counties (and thanks to the BEARS and Mike Heitmann NØSO for that nice plaque) we'll probably go out and hit some of our favorites again. Anybody for "throwed rolls" at Lambert's in Sikeston or a stop at the Becky Thatcher Diner in Hannibal?





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MS150 Bike ride 7 and 8 September 2019

by Jerry Miller, W0PP

The Greene County Missouri ARES in conjunction with the Nixa Amateur Radio Club and the Joplin Amateur Radio Club had the honor of supporting the "ride MS Ozark MS150" bike ride over the weekend of September 7 and 8 2019. We had amateur radio operators set up at each of the rest stops to provide needed communications for the team captains. We also had amateurs operating their private vehicles as Safety and Gear units (SAGS) with bike racks that provided rescue operations for a rider if they broke down or simply became too tired to continue. In addition our members provided sweeps which followed the last rider on each of the routes to make sure when the last rider would finish a segment

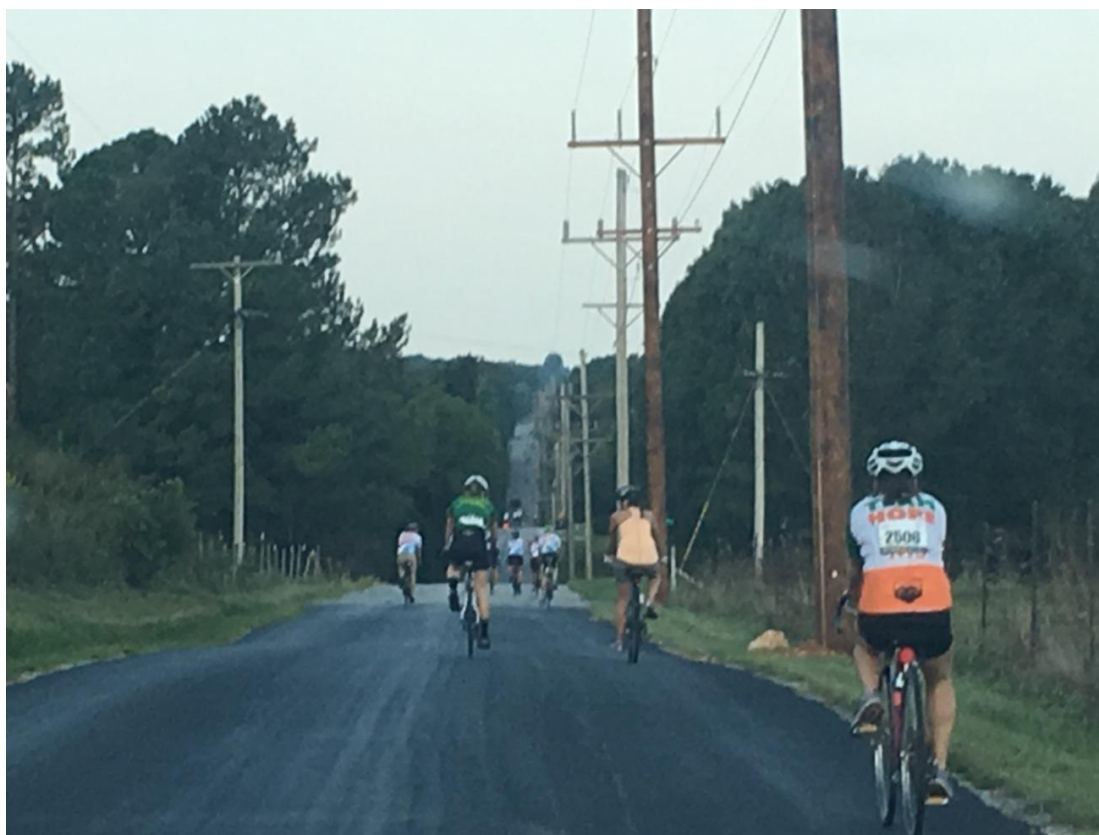
There were between 300 and 400 bike riders that took place in the event with temperatures in the mid to upper 90's. The ARES group supports not only the MS150 ride but a number of other rides and walk/runs during the year. (pictures are by W0PP and W0DCH)



This is the amateur radio crew at rest stop 5 located at Freistatt MO. From Left to Right Barbara, KD0NEM's XYL, John KD0ONE, and Cliff KD0NEM.



Donald Hillier W0DCH





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Some of these riders ended up riding a total of 200 miles over the two day event. Most rode either 50 or 150 miles from Republic, MO to Joplin and back for the 150 mile. This event raises money for MS research.



There were a total of seven rest stops. Each was manned by at least two amateur radio operators along with a number of other volunteers serving snacks and drinks to the riders.





ARRL Volunteer Examiners in the Midwest Division

by Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

In amateur radio we have certain recognition awards for operating achievements such as DXCC and VUCC which signify working and confirming contacts with 100 or more DX entities or 100 grid locators on the bands above 50 MHz. With this in mind, I researched the records of our volunteer examiners in the division to find those individuals who have given a very significant amount of their time to administer the license exams for a ham license. Passing the exam is the entry point for new people coming into the hobby and without the dedicated VE's, this wouldn't happen.

To all the Midwest Division VEs, and especially those who have proctored 100 or more test sessions, we thank you for your dedication and service to amateur radio.

| IOWA – 285 ARRL Volunteer Examiners | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Call | Name | Test Sessions |
| N0BFJ | John T. Hoenshell | 196 |
| K9AYK | Roger W. Franke | 171 |
| WY0V | Gary L. Johnson | 159 |
| KC0YHU | Craig A. Rose | 153 |
| N0GR | Gregory S. Ross | 143 |
| N0CFL | Richard J. Allen | 136 |
| NS0B | Alan L. Braun | 114 |
| N0NEU | Steven C. Huffman | 109 |
| N0PN | Paul M. Nemmers | 102 |



KANSAS – 278 ARRL Volunteer Examiners

| Call | Name | Test Sessions |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| N0OBM | Sidney C. Ashen-Brenner III | 198 |
| WA0PSF | Ronald R. Tremblay | 162 |
| KA0EIC | Donald J. Fitzgerald | 150 |
| W0ME | Alvin W. Wiechman | 138 |
| WA0W | Robert K. Eis, Jr. | 123 |
| AC0E | James D. Douglass | 103 |

NEBRASKA – 174 ARRL Volunteer Examiners

| Call | Name | Test Sessions |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| K0KTZ | Harold E. Kunkee | 336 |
| K0SIL | Richard W. Durham | 158 |
| KM0Y | Brian R. Zdan | 152 |
| KE0Y | Ben A. Elliott | 138 |
| K0GND | Reynolds B. Davis | 122 |
| W7UP | Daniel L. Steinhoff | 111 |



| MISSOURI – 728 ARRL Volunteer Examiners | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Call | Name | Test Sessions |
| AB0TO | David F. Bartholomew | 710 |
| N0WDG | Kevin L. Naumann | 624 |
| W0HMS | Harry J. Steger, Jr. | 543 |
| W0RL | Roland L. Kramer | 517 |
| AB0YX | Jeanette K. Nordman | 460 |
| KC0VMY | Kenneth Simila | 274 |
| N0TH | John B. Telker | 250 |
| KJ0MTN | John C. Mountain, Jr. | 241 |
| N0MTH | Peter B. Brisbane | 213 |
| KB0DIY | Ronald B. Lemons | 209 |
| N0IS | Bob Sluder | 165 |
| AE0EB | Edwin M. Berkel | 149 |
| KC0HXB | Charles E. Wilmes | 132 |
| K0WC | Raymond E. Martin | 129 |
| AB0JW | Ray Brookover | 126 |
| N0MTI | Janelle Brisbane | 126 |
| AB0GR | Wayne C. Lenzing | 125 |
| KD0GUR | Gary W. Jackson | 125 |
| WD0FRY | Mel Wheeler | 122 |
| N0AFT | Donald G. O'Laughlin | 120 |
| K4YCD | William E. Stanfill | 120 |
| KB0STN | Raymond A. Brown | 119 |
| N0JJA | Roger "Bill" Gerle | 118 |
| N0WC | Andrew Ritter, Jr. | 118 |
| W0KZ | Jon P. Schaumann | 112 |
| K0RKW | Larry R. Fluegge | 112 |
| KB0PDL | Mike Bien | 111 |
| W0AVQ | John E. Clark | 110 |
| AE0DR | Gordon J. Denno | 105 |
| AB0VY | John Thomas Rue | 100 |



The Reno County, Kansas Hamfest

by Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

This was a new hamfest in the Midwest Division held Sept. 21, 2019 at the National Guard Armory in Hutchinson, Kansas. The weather was great; the food was good; and the admission was FREE! I'm originally from Kansas, so it was great to have "eyeball QSOs" with old friends. Below are a few photos of the event you might enjoy.



L to R: Myself; Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, Great Bend, KS and retired ARRL HQ staffer; and Ron Cowan, KB0DTI, La Cygne, KS and ARRL Kansas Section Manager.



A wide variety of equipment was for sale in the clean spacious flea market area



Elizabeth Blocksome recruited ARRL Members



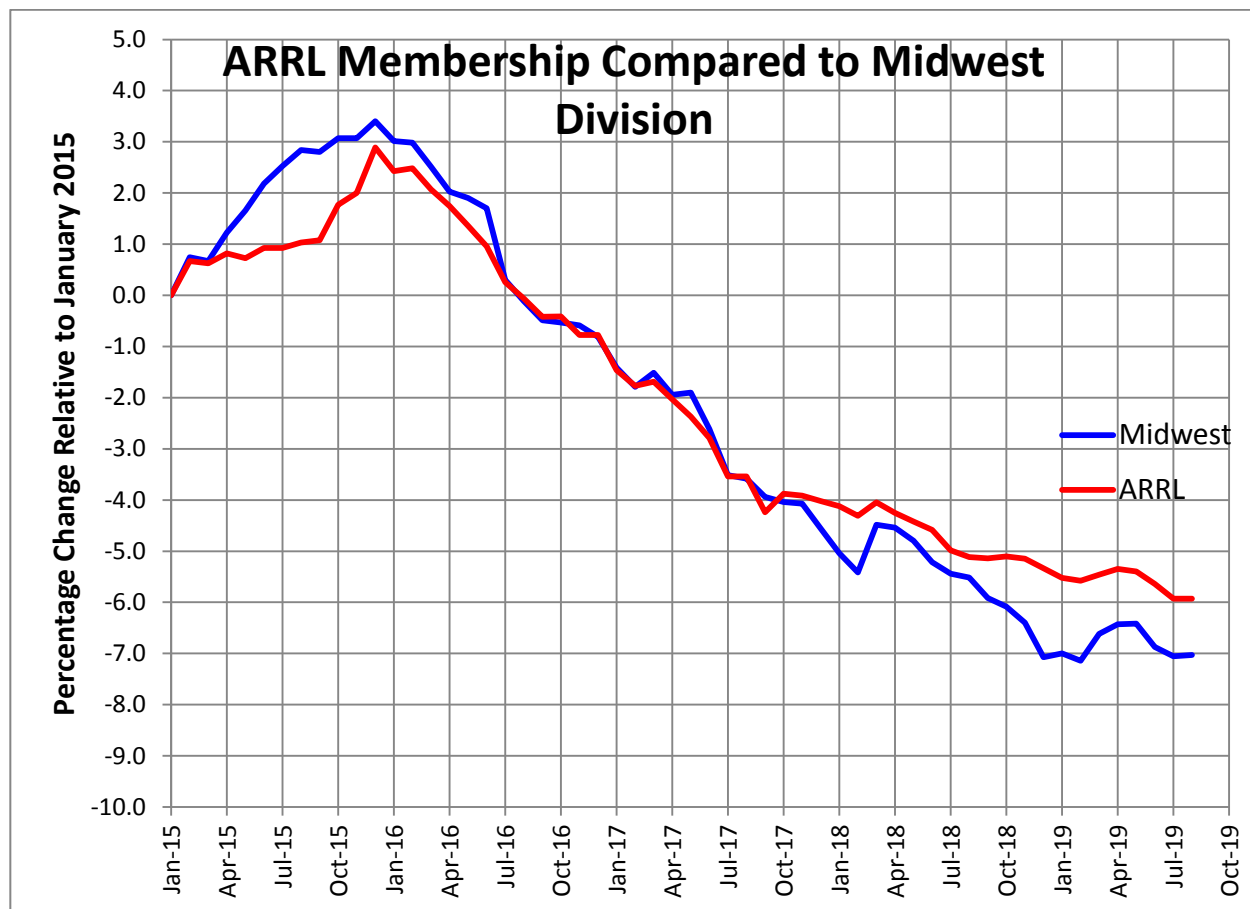
Gerrit Potts just passed his Technician License Exam at the hamfest and received a sample copy of QST plus other ARRL literature. Gerrit teaches Vo Ed at Kinsley High School and promotes electronics with his students.



ARRL Membership Statistics Update

by Rod Blocksme, K0DAS

This past month shows an increase of 8 members in total ARRL membership. The Midwest Division contributed an increase of two members for the past month. Below are the charts updated as of **August 31st**. Let's get this trend moving upwards. Invite a new ham to a club meeting, a hamfest, or field day, and introduce him/her to ARRL and the benefits of membership.





Birthday Party – Andy Adams, WNØI

by Kent Trimble, K9ZTV

The Mid-MO ARC held an 84th birthday party for its oldest member, Andy Adams, WNØI, at St. Joseph Home in Jefferson City on September 19th.



Attendees were, (L to R): WWØG, NØKSF, WAØBER, KAØJQH, NØJBF, WCØT, ADØKH, WNØI, WA2KBZ, WBØKXP, NØZH, WØJDR, WØXII, NØEAX, K9ZTV, W4RK.



State QSO Parties in the Midwest Division

Missouri

April 4-5, 2020 Sponsored by the Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society St. Louis (BEARS-STL). For details go to <http://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party>

Midwest Division ARRL Hamfests & Conventions

2019 Nixa ARC Hamfest - Saturday, November 9, 2019 @ 8:00 a.m. in Nixa, MO

As you may have already seen in the ARRL Midwest Division Newsletter, the Nixa ARC hamfest is scheduled for Saturday, November 9th at "The Bridge" Church located at 308 W Mt. Vernon Street (also known as State Hwy 14) in Nixa, MO - this is located across the street from McDonalds. We would be very pleased to see you there!

The proceeds from this hamfest go to support the Southwest Missouri Linked Repeater System (SMLRS), you can check out the website at www.smlrs.info. If you aren't aware, the SMLRS has begun an Eastward expansion project and will soon be adding the 146.820-, PL 110.9 Hz in Rolla, the 146.985-, PL 110.9 Hz in Willow Springs and the 444.775+, PL 110.9 Hz in BenDavis, located West of Houston. This will bring the total number of repeaters on the linked system to 11.

Doors open at 8:00 a.m. and the entry fee is \$7.00. If you would like to purchase a "super ticket", they are back again this year for \$20.00 and that gives you 20 entries for this year's prize drawings!

Associated Radio, D&L Antenna and Ham Crazy are this year's commercial vendors and we also have flea market tables available. If you would like to rent a table for the hamfest, the cost is \$13.00 and each additional table is only \$6.00, To reserve a flea market table, please email James Adkins, KB0NHX, directly at adkins.james@gmail.com quickly as tables sell out fast. Please email first that you would like a table or tables before making payment to confirm we still have tables available and we can give further instructions on making payment at that time either electronically or by mail.



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Rob Huelga, W3LGA, and the Nixa ARC VE testing team will be providing VE testing at the hamfest and it begins at 8:30 a.m. Those that obtain or upgrade their license at the hamfest will be entered into a drawing specially for those that test at the hamfest. So if you are thinking about upgrading or getting your license, do it at the hamfest as your chances to win a prize are very good in this drawing.

AND - this year we'll be having a special drawing for our Veterans again - a \$100 gift certificate to DX Engineering!!!

You may also want to check in with Jerry Miller, W0PP, as he will be programming radios for folks at the hamfest. There is no charge for the service, but all donations go toward the Southwest Missouri Linked Repeater System also.

We also have a couple of great presentations lined up for this year's attendees. At 10:00 a.m., James Adkins, KB0NHX, will be giving a presentation titled "The Importance of a Well (G)rounded Station" outlining important techniques for your home station grounding - discussing the differences between a safety ground, a lightning protection ground, and an RF Ground and why each of them are important. This presentation has been used by several clubs across the US as well as a group of engineering students at a local college - you WON'T want to miss it! Then, at 11:30, you'll want to catch Glenn Schulz, W9IQ, the ARRL's Technical Coordinator for the Missouri Section and the Webster County ARES AEC, as he presents "Understanding SWR and Feedline Loss." If you are building an antenna system, or would like to be able to better evaluate your existing system, Glenn's presentation is a great one to attend.

This year's event will again have food catered and available for breakfast and lunch at the usual reasonable prices and we will have an area set up for attendees to sit and eat and catch up with friends while taking part and watching the hamfest activities.

Please feel free to pass this along to any amateur email lists or Facebook pages for amateur groups everywhere!

73 & See you November 9th @ 8:00 a.m.!

Nixa ARC Hamfest Committee

www.nixahams.net

www.smlrs.info



10/05/2019 | [Annual Southside ARC Hamfest](#)

Location: Belton, MO

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Southside ARC

Website: <http://southsidearc.net/hamfest/>

10/05/2019 | [Wichita Area Hamfest](#)

Location: Wichita, KS

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Valley Center Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.vcarc.org>

10/06/2019 | [Iowa State Convention \(Southeast Iowa Hamfest\)](#)

Location: West Liberty, IA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Muscatine ARC & Washington Area ARC

Website: <http://www.MuscatineARC.org/se-ia-hamfest>

10/26/2019 | [Halloween Hamfest](#)

Location: Kirkwood, MO

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Saint Louis Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://halloweenhamfest.org>

11/02/2019 | [Raytown Amateur Radio Club Hamfest](#)

Location: Independence , MO

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Raytown Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.k0gq.com>

11/03/2019 | [48th Annual DRAC Hamfest](#)

Location: Davenport, IA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Davenport Radio Amateur Club

11/09/2019 | [NARC Hamfest](#)

Location: Nixa, MO

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Nixa Amateur Radio Club

11/16/2019 | [Northeast Nebraska Hamfest](#)

Location: Norfolk, NE

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Elkhorn Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Website: <http://qsl.net/evarc>



Midwest Division Special Event Stations - October

05/04 to 10/14 2019 | Lewis & Clark 1804 Expedition Old Baldy (AKA) The Tower

May 4-Oct 14, 0500Z-0500Z, N0HWJ, Lynch, NE. N0HWJ. 14.325 14.245 3.970 3.950. QSL. Don Lallier, N0HWJ, P.O. Box 303, 610 Windom St., Orchard, NE 68764. I ran this last year from my Cabin about 200 yards from Old Baldy next to the Missouri River in Holt County. I am usually on during the weekends and some weekdays in the summer months. Lewis and Clark noted The Tower in their Journal and the finding of the Black Tailed Prairie dog that they captured and brought back alive to the president of the US. donaldlallier@gmail.com or www.qrz.com/db/n0hwi

10/12/2019 | Hartville MO Fall Festival

Oct 12, 1600Z-1900Z, WC0RC, Hartville, MO. Wright County Outlaws Amateur Radio Club. 14.225 7.225. QSL. Kenny Williams, WB0VPS, P.O. Box 300, Hartville, MO 65667. Send a SASE to the address on QRZ to receive QSL card with your qsl card. This is a local festival held each year on the city square. Starts at 16:00 UTC to 19:00 UTC. kd0meo@hotmail.com or www.qrz.com/db/wc0rc

10/12/2019 | Lester Dent - Doc Savage

Oct 12-Oct 13, 1500Z-2300Z, W0D, Macon, MO. Macon County Amateur Radio Club. 28.350 14.250 7.250 3.950 . Certificate. Macon County ARC, P.O. Box 13, Macon, MO 63552. On October 12th and 13th, the Macon County Amateur Radio Club will operate the Lester Dent-Doc Savage Mystery Special Event W0D, in Macon, MO. The purpose of the Special Event is to honor of the Birthday of Lester Dent, one of the most prolific writers of Pulp Fiction, and an Amateur Radio Operator. It is also the 86th "Birthday" of his creation, the first "Superhero" Doc Savage. A colorful certificate will be provided to those that contact the Special Event Station and send a QSL including a # 10 SASE to the Macon County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 13, Macon, MO 63552. <https://www.maconcountymissouriarc.org>

10/31/2019 | Frankenstein Halloween FunXpedtion

Oct 31-Nov 1, 1900Z-0500Z, W0O, Jefferson City, MO. Mid-MO Amateur Radio Club. 14.038 Spotting Networks. QSL. Kent Trimble, K9ZTV, 2210 Heartland Ridge, Jefferson City, MO 65109. A unique 2019 edition QSL will be available upon receipt of YOUR properly filled-out QSL and an SASE (#10 envelope unless you like folded cards). Further details can be found on the W0O page on QRZ.com. www.qrz.com/db/w0o

ARRL Midwest Division Leadership



Director: Rod Blocksome K0DAS

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Vice Director: Art Zygielbaum K0AIZ

k0aiz@arrl.org 402-421-0839

Iowa Section Manager: Lelia Garner, WA0UIG

Kansas Section Manager: Ron Cowan, KB0DTI

Missouri Section Manager: Cecil Higgins, AC0HA

Nebraska Section Manager: Matt Anderson, KA0BOJ

DX Advisory Committee: John Yodis, K2VV (MO)

Contest Advisory Committee: Glenn Johnson, W0GJ (IA)

Midwest Division Volunteer Counsel: Craig Long, K0CSL (IA)

Division Legislative Action Chair: Mike Edwards, WB9M (MO)

Legislative Action Coordinators: Nick Critelli, K0PCG (IA); Bruce Frahm, K0BJ (KS & NE); Mike Edwards, WB9M (MO).

Assistant Directors (Missouri): Paul Haefner K0JPL, Dave Propper K2DP, Kent Trimble K9ZTV, Roger Volk K0GOB, Cecil Higgins AC0HA, John Frederick N8GOU, Eric Zust W0TT, Randy Schulze KD0HKD, and Ron Lowrance, K4SX.

Assistant Directors (Kansas): Mike Albers K0FJ, Jim Andera K0NK, Bill Henderson K0VBU, Charlie Hett K0THN, Richard Johnson K0RCJ, Rick Tucker W0RT, and Jon Jones N0JK.

Assistant Directors (Iowa): Tim Busch N0CKR, C.W. Pantel K0IIR, and Jim Spencer W0SR

Assistant Directors (Nebraska): Matt Anderson, KA0BOJ, Joe Eisenberg K0NEB, Allen Harpham WD0DXD, and Todd LeMense KK0DX.

Midwest Division Webmaster: Steve Schmitz W0SJS email: w0sjs@arrl.net

Midwest Division's website: <http://www.arrlmidwest.org/>