

# PRINTED CIRCUIT

MAY/JUNE 2008

Newsletter of the Joplin Amateur Radio Club

Vol. 18 Issue No. 5

## The World of VHF

**W**hile VHF DXers sometimes call weak signal work that is not entirely true. Propagation on the VHF/UHF bands is always full of surprises that's what makes it interesting, sometimes very strong signals. To make one thing clear single sideband is far superior to FM for VHF DXing and a lot depends on the antenna when conditions are marginal. The four main propagation modes used in VHF communication are Sporadic E, Tropo Enhancement and ducting, Meteor scatter and Aurora. During the peak of the 11 year solar cycle F2 propagation.

Sporadic E which occurs mainly from May to August is the most common on 6 meters, fairly rare on 2 meters and very rare on 222m. This also is the propagation that provides short skip openings on 10 and 15 meters in the summer up to 1300 miles. Many times with little activity these openings are detected by propagation beacons that run unattended 24 hours a day, most are low powered CW signals. Several Joplin hams have had beacon stations over the years W0VD, K0ETC and W0PW.. The 18 watt K0ETC beacon has been heard on 6 meters all over the world, Don W0PW had a beacon on both 2 meters and 1.25 meters.

There are thousands of similar beacons all over the world on 10, 6, 2 and 1.25 meters with most running 10 watts or less with simple antennas. Most with an automatic keying system give call letter several times followed by grid locator, sometimes QTH followed by QSL or report information sometimes an E mail address. It is fun just to log these beacon stations and good code practice also. The closest 6 meter beacon now on the air is on 6 meters on 50.065mhz and located in Bartlesville, OK. It signs a series of Vs followed by DE W5GPM EM26. EM26 is the grid locator that Bartlesville is located. It uses a

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## Wichita site for July Central States VHF Society 2008 Conference

**T**he Central States VHF Society (CSVHFS) will be holding their 42nd Annual VHF Conference, at the Hilton Wichita Airport Executive Conference Center, July 24 through 27, 2008, in Wichita, KS. All Hams are invited to attend this event. The hotel information is on the website. Here is the schedule for the three days:

**Thursday, 24 July 2008** Surplus tour, Thursday Night Social, Hospitality room, BoD meeting.

**Friday, 25 July 2008** Antenna Range, Rover/Dish display, Several technical presentations, including testing of active devices (noise figure) and passive devices. Flea Market, SNOTTS meeting.

**Saturday, 26 July 2008** Technical Presentations including tests of active devices (noise figure) and passive devices. Business meeting. Banquet with keynote speaker.

### What is Central States VHF Society?

The CSVHFS is a Not-For-Profit organization chartered in the mid-1960s in the state of Missouri. It began to foster amateur radio experimentation and operation on the bands above 50 MHz. The organization is national in scope, with about 300 members including Canada and other countries.

The CSVHFS hosts an annual technical conference with the goal to raise technical level of amateurs by providing a forum for presenting papers relating to VHF, UHF, and Microwave. The main focal point for the discussion concerns operating practices and procedures and exploration of modes such as EME, MS, FAI, E-skip, and other topics that promote operation on Amateur bands above 50MHz.

For more info: <http://www.csvhfs.org/>

## The Devil is in the PA!

I recall a story about a ham back in the early 1950s in Amarillo, TX named Al, W5WB. He had the misfortune of living right next to a Baptist Church. In those days hams adopted their own phonetics, and he called himself the "Whiskey Bottle".

One Sunday morning during a church service he got on the air with his usual CQ call. "This is the Whiskey Bottle, W5WB of Amarillo Texas calling, CQ 20" It happened to be in the middle of the sermon, and the congregation was hearing the Whiskey Bottle coming through their PA system. Since we used AM in those days, every word was clear. The congregation surely thought that the devil had invaded their church.

Over the years I have heard several stories like this, and some are very cute!

In 1981, our church apparently had lost the shield on the mike cord, when in the middle of the sermon a slight AC hum appeared, and a local radio station playing the song "Elvira" suddenly was heard loud and clear. The guest preacher that day was a young guy from Ozark Bible College. He laughed and said "Well there is Elvira! Sounds like the devil has gotten into our PA system".

73, John WØJRP

## Join ARRL through the JARC!

ARRL Affiliated Clubs receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal they submit to ARRL Headquarters.

Under the ARRL Club Commission Membership Recruitment Program, clubs retain \$15 for each NEW membership and \$2 for each renewal submitted (regular and senior memberships only).

inside...

Hamfest Calendar/Classified Ads  
Monthly Club Calendar

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## Doctor Ray Dio Is QRV!

Dear Dr. Ray, While tuning around the 40m HF band the other night I discovered a time signal like WWV. What's up with that?

Sincerely, Rich.

Dear Rich, unless you were dead drunk, I assure you it was not WWV that you heard in the 40m band. They transmit on 2.5, 5.0, 10.0, 15.0, and 20.0 MHz exactly! What you probably heard was CHU Canada *just above* the 40m band. If you understand French, they repeat it in that language too! Try tuning at night at 7335 kHz and you will find it there! They can also be found just below 80 meters and above 20 meters. Aim your browser here: <http://www.eecis.udel.edu/~mills/ntp/chu.html>

'73  
Dr. Ray

*(Continued from page 1)*

vertical antenna so actually I hear it as well on my 40 mtr inverted V as my 6 meter 5 element yagi..The signal is usually weak but solid copy 24 hours a day ..Most 6 meter beacons are from 50.050 to 50.070mh and in good band openings you can hear many at one time.

There have already been a few 6 meter E openings reported mostly in southern latitudes but May usually kicks off the skip season. Unlike F skip propagation which follows the sun sporadic E can occur any time day or night , one hop skip maximum is about 1300 miles but double hop openings with weaker signals are possible.

While skip can also be worked on 6 meter FM, most of the activity is on USB between 50.125-50.200mh. Give it a try it is easy, former club member Latty KOAUY worked 30 states with just 10 watts and a vertical when he first got on 6 meters, vertical or horizontal work equally well on skip signals cross polarization doesn't matter only on groundwave or tropo

Any questions about VHF operation E mail me at [w0jrp@earthlink.net](mailto:w0jrp@earthlink.net).

DE  
John WØJRP

## HAM EQUIPMENT FLEA MARKET

NOTE: INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS ARE \$1 PER MONTH, FREE FOR JARC MEMBERS. FS / WTB SPACE IS ALLOCATED BY DATE RECEIVED. COMMERCIAL AD SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR A NOMINAL CHARGE.

### For Sale - MIRAGE 6M 150W Amplifier

Solid State, made in USA. RX Pre-Amp is out but otherwise in good shape. Asking \$100 OBO. John Tudenham WØJRP, 417-624-8058 email: [w0jrp@earthlink.net](mailto:w0jrp@earthlink.net)

05/2008

### For Sale - YAESU FT-2500M 2m 50W FM

Transceiver, 31 memories, RX:140-174 MHz, TX:144-148 MHz, MH-27 MIC, mount and manual. Built in CTCSS. Recently serviced, Rugged rig, cosmetically good. \$100 O.B.O.

Jim Scott 417-781-2211, email [wb0iyc@arrl.net](mailto:wb0iyc@arrl.net)

05/2008



### For Sale - ICOM IC-45A 440MHz 10W FM

Programmable 5 ch. + VFO w/IC-HM14 Mic. Works fine, looks fair. w/manual. Asking \$50.

Jim Scott 417-781-2211, email [wb0iyc@arrl.net](mailto:wb0iyc@arrl.net)

05/2008

### For Sale - 72 ft. Motorized Crank-up Tower

HDX-572MDPL with MDPL-1000 motor drive and MCL-100 limit switches. Mfg. by the U.S. Tower Corporation, this model includes tilt over capability. Rated wind load of 55ft<sup>2</sup>@50MPH, 18ft<sup>2</sup>@70MPH, to handle large antenna arrays. Weight 1600 lbs. FOB Joplin. \$4000 O.B.O.

John Stucka, N3JM, 609-653-3021,

[stucka0@yahoo.com](mailto:stucka0@yahoo.com)

02/2008

### For Sale - iCom 551 6m All Mode XCVR

Nice rig with Passband Tuning Unit, VOX, and FM modules (all are installed). Whopping 10W output. I'm including a cut dipole with coax to get you started on the Magic Band. Desk unit 120VAC/12VDC w/manuals. Asking \$300

Jim Scott 417-781-2211, email [wb0iyc@arrl.net](mailto:wb0iyc@arrl.net)

02/2008

### For Sale - LEXMARK Printer Model 515

USB port Inkjet printer. Asking \$25 OBO.

John Tudenham WØJRP, 417-624-8058 email: [w0jrp@earthlink.net](mailto:w0jrp@earthlink.net)

01/2008

**WTB - High Power Dummy Load - Must be 1kW rated - intermittent is okay. Can-Tenna or any brand is okay if reasonable price.**

Contact Rob George WØTTM, 417-671-9420 email: [rob.george@scottelectronic.com](mailto:rob.george@scottelectronic.com)

01/2008

## Area HAMFESTS and EVENTS

NOTE: LISTINGS ARE PROVIDED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE AND ARE NOT VERIFIED FOR CORRECTNESS. SEE BACK PAGE FOR SUBMISSIONS.

### 8 Jun 2008 - Granite City, IL Egyptianfest

Sponsored by the Egyptian Radio Club

<http://www.w9aiu.org>

Talk-In: 146.79 (PL 127.3)

Contact: Frank Shears, K7RMJ

615-796-0314, Email: [cuban9@charter.net](mailto:cuban9@charter.net)

### 13-14 Jun 2008 - Plano, TX Ham-Com 2008

West Gulf Division Convention

Plano & McKinney Amateur Radio Clubs

<http://www.hamcom.org/>

Talk-In: 147.18 (PL 107.2),

Email: [office@hamcom.org](mailto:office@hamcom.org)

### 18-19 Jul 2008 - Oklahoma City, OK

Ham Holiday 2008 - OKla. State Convention

Oklahoma Expo Hall, at the Fairgrounds.

Sponsor: Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs

<http://www.hamholiday.org/>

### 19 Jul 2008 - Warrensburg, MO

Warrensburg HamFest, Warrensburg ARC

Johnson County Fairgrounds, Highway 50

<http://www.waarc.org>

Talk-In: 146.880- (PL 107.2)

Contact: Keith B. Raihala, NØVJ

Email: [n0vj@arrl.net](mailto:n0vj@arrl.net)

### 20 Jul 2008 - Washington, MO

Zero Beaters A.R.C. 46th Annual Hamfest.

Bernie E. Hillerman Park, 6am - 1pm

VE Exams Talk-in 147.24+ MHz.

ZBARC, POB 1305, Washington, MO 63090

<http://zerobeaters.org/zbfest.htm>

### 24-26 Jul 2008 - Wichita, KS

Central States VHF Society Conference

Presented by the Central States VHF Society

Contact: Mel Graves, WRØI

Email: [wr0i@sgdrugfree.com](mailto:wr0i@sgdrugfree.com)

<http://www.csvhfs.org>

### 3 Aug 2008 - St. Charles, MO

St. Charles ARC HAMFEST

American Legion Hall, 2500 Raymond Dr.

Talk-In: 146.670 (no tone)

Contact: David J. Livingston, WBØRAB

Ph: 314- 973-0783 [dlinvinston@charter.net](mailto:dlinvinston@charter.net)

<http://www.wb0hsi.org>

### 17 Aug 2008 - Salina, KS

Kansas State Convention - BiCentennial Center

# JUNE 2008

## Joplin Amateur Radio Club Meetings and Events

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  <small>09:00 BREAKFAST - COLUMBIA TRADER</small>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <small>19:30 JARC BUSINESS MEETING RED CROSS @ 4TH &amp; JACKSON</small>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <small>09:00 BREAKFAST - COLUMBIA TRADER</small>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <small>09:00 BREAKFAST - COLUMBIA TRADER</small>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <small>19:30 JARC PROGRAM MEETING TBA</small>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <small>09:00 BREAKFAST - COLUMBIA TRADER  13:00 JARC FIELD DAY DOVER HILL 24 HRS CALLSIGN: WØIN</small>
<b>29</b>  <small>JARC FIELD DAY ENDS: 13:00 DOVER HILL 24 HRS CALLSIGN: WØIN</small>	<b>30</b>		<p><b>SORRY ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER DELAYS.</b></p> <p>I AM IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING THE FILES INTO A WORD PROCESSOR SO THAT THE DOCUMENTS CAN BE TRANSPORTED EASIER.</p> <p><b>EXPECT A NEW LOOK - HOPEFULLY WITH THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.</b></p> <p>73, JIM WBØIYC, EDITOR</p>			

## Meeting Times, Testing, and other Club Information

**T**he Joplin Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a Missouri *not-for-profit* organization, meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Red Cross Building, in the North room at 7:30 PM. Enter from the West side of the facility. The building is handicap accessible.

The club organizes and participates in annual operating events, assists area agencies with communications, and offers testing and training classes for advancement in amateur radio. It also sponsors the JARC Hamfest each year in August.

The club maintains two 2m repeaters.  
**WØIN** - 147.210+ MHz (open)  
**WØIN** South - 145.390- MHz (91.5 Hz)

Point your browser to the club website for event information, photos of past events, and links to other ham sites.  
<http://www.joplin-arc.org>

Hot topics are discussed at the Saturday morning breakfasts, where members gather about 9:00 a.m. at the Steak & Shake restaurant located on the north outer road at I-44 and Range Line Road, next to the Olive Garden restaurant.

### 2008 CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Andy Gabbert	KAØTUD
Vice Pres. Bill Reynolds	N6HXI
Treasurer: Jim Johannes	NØZSQ
Secretary: Jim Scott	WBØIYC

### VE TESTING SCHEDULE

Volunteer Examiner testing is held on the first Monday of each month except holidays at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 2423 W. 26th St. in Joplin, MO. Sign up starts at 6:30 p.m. testing begins promptly at 7:00 p.m.

For additional details, or special accommodations contact Martin, WD6FIC (918-919-0188).

### ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Through this paper, the JARC offers an open forum for the amateur radio community in the four-state area. *Your* comments and contributions are invited. All submissions are accepted, although email ASCII text is preferred. We reserve the right to edit submissions for spelling, content, and space limitations as required. Submission deadline is the **15th of the month** preceding the month of publication.

Non-commercial classified ads are run *free* for JARC members, \$1 each, otherwise. Classified ad space is available at \$12/month per page, pro-rated for fractional space, smallest accepted is 1/12 page. Artwork format should be 300 DPI.

Items for publication, including classified ads and amateur radio related articles, may be mailed to: **JARC Printed Circuit**, P.O. Box 2983, Joplin, MO 64803-2983, or emailed to: [wb0iyc@arrl.net](mailto:wb0iyc@arrl.net) Please include your contact information. ¶

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Joplin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2983  
Joplin, Missouri 64803-2983