



## ARRL Midwest Division Newsletter November 2018



### Boy Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air

by Mike Miller, AC0BD, Iowa Section Youth Coordinator

Five groups across Iowa registered for the annual Boy Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) held the weekend of October 19-21. During the event, scouts use amateur radio to establish communication with other scouts and amateur radio operators across the world. JOTA is the third full weekend in October and over 1.8 million scouts from 150+ countries participate. What a fantastic opportunity to introduce amateur radio to an interested, motivated, and active groups of kids...and parents! In Iowa, five groups from the following areas registered with the JOTA website to promote their operation: Council Bluffs, Rockwell City, Iowa City, Mount Vernon, and Des Moines.

What does JOTA look like? In central Iowa, we organized a three-hour event on a Saturday morning. Approximately 45 scouts and 75 people overall attended and participated in activities including learning and practicing Morse code with a code key and buzzer, using the phonetic alphabet, and making two-way radio contacts with other scouts around the U.S. and Canada; our station operated under the call sign AC0HS and was sponsored by the Mid-Iowa Council BSA and the Ankeny Centennial High School ARC. Highlights included several of our scouts talking with a scout group in Saskatchewan for over 30 minutes. We also made radio contact with scouts at a camporee in Connecticut; we talked with this group for over an hour. A total of 30 scouts made radio contacts. Older scouts also learned about how the ionosphere impacts radio wave propagation and calculated the length of a radio antenna for a specific radio frequency.



Next year, JOTA will be October 18-20th. Make plans now for your club to reach out to engage the scouts, scout parents, and adult scout leaders in your area. Please contact me for ideas and assistance!

My email is [AC0BD@arrl.net](mailto:AC0BD@arrl.net).



## Nebraska Excellence in Risk Communications Award

by Dave Theophilus, W0NRW, Pioneer Amateur Radio Club

Dennis Mitchell, KC0YKN, of Omaha received the Excellence in Risk Communication Award for his efforts in raising awareness of risks and hazards in his community through the innovative use of amateur radio technology. Having retired from the U.S. Air Force, where he served many years as a communicator and electronics technician, Mitchell wanted to find a way to help his community with his talents.

He became a licensed amateur radio operator and joined the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club. He is an active member of the club and regularly volunteers to assist with local events. He is also a member of the Tri-County Community Emergency Response Team and is the emergency coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service program in Sarpy County. He routinely assists the Bellevue Police with radio assistance during various community events.

Mitchell's newest passion is to help usher in a new crop of amateur radio operators in the community. He has started teaching amateur radio classes and trained 21 newly licensed amateur radio operators in the area. His initiative to train community members to operate radio communications in a variety of disaster or emergency scenarios will help to ensure effective communication between responders the next time there is a major disaster.



Lt. Gov. Mike Foley of Nebraska presenting the award to Dennis Mitchell, KC0YKN, of Omaha



## **SLSRC Back to the Basics Classes**

by Cliff Rozar, KCØSDV, St. Louis Suburban Radio Club

Back by popular demand for the third year – The SLSRC is starting the Fall/Winter session of the “Back to the Basics” Classes for Amateur Radio.

The classes are for all amateurs, but are geared toward new amateurs, those who want to refresh their knowledge, and those who are not amateurs yet.

The classes will be at 7 PM on the first Friday of each month in rooms 419-420 of the Clinical Learning Institute (Goldfarb School of Nursing) at Missouri Baptist Hospital. (Same meeting location as the monthly SLSRC meetings.)

Meeting Dates and Topics are:

October 5 – Tech Privileges and setting up your first VHF/UHF station.

November 2 – Repeater usage and checking into nets.

December 7 – My first HF radio, Calling CQ, Modes and Operating procedures, HF antennas and coax.

January 4 – Confirming QSOs, QSL cards, LOTW, eQSLs, etc.

February 1 – Emergency Communication and Public Service Events.

March 1 – Other aspects of Ham Radio (HamWAN, Satellite, Digital Modes, SDR, Contesting, QRP, etc.

In addition to information about each topic, there will be a Q&A session with several “Elmers” available to answer your questions.

All amateurs and future amateurs are invited ... not licensed “yet”... newly licensed ... been licensed but not active ... and of course, “old timers.”

Contact Cliff, KCØSDV at [Education@SLSRC.org](mailto:Education@SLSRC.org) for information.



## Surprise Six Meter Sporadic-E Opening

by Jon Jones, N0JK

A surprise 6 meter sporadic-E opening the evening of October 13. A minor G-1 class geomagnetic storm was in progress with a  $K_p = 4$ .

Stations in the Gulf Coast and S. Texas had Es to the Midwest and Rocky Mountain states. K0GU (DN70) said he heard the K4TQR/b (EM63) for 2 hours. I heard the K4TQR/b on my mobile while driving on I-70 near Junction City, KS. I noted a lot of activity on the CB AM channels while driving, which prompted me to check 6 Meters.

Es is rare in October, the only month with less sporadic-E is March.

## The Orionids Meteor Shower on Six Meters

by Jon Jones, N0JK

The Orionids peaked on Oct 21/22. I was on Oct. 22 and worked K5TR EM00 TX on 6M using MSK144 at 1323z. K5TR also worked W0LGQ. N0LL also reports a couple of 6M MSK144 Orionids contacts.

Note that K1JT, et. al. have released a beta version of WSJT-X v 2.0. Many on the Ping Jockey meteor scatter web site were using it. It is NOT backward compatible with earlier versions of WSJT-X. The "new" meteor scatter WSJT-X frequency is 50.280 MHz. I had a sked earlier with K1JT (he and I were both using older versions of WSJT-X but did not complete. Joe "suggested" upgrading to v 2.0.



## Midwest Division ARRL Hamfests & Conventions

### **11/03/2018 | [Northeast Nebraska Hamfest](#)**

**Location:** Norfolk, NE

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Elkhorn Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

### **11/03/2018 | [Raytown ARC Hamfest 2018](#)**

**Location:** Independence, MO

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Raytown Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://K0GQ.com>

### **11/04/2018 | [DRAC's 47th ANNUAL HAMFEST](#)**

**Location:** Davenport, IA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Davenport Radio Amateur Club

**Website:** <http://www.arcsupport.com/drac/2018festflyer.pdf>

### **11/10/2018 | [NARCFEST 2018](#)**

**Location:** Nixa, MO

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Nixa Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <https://smlrs.info/hamfest-information/>

### **01/26/2019 | [Winterfest](#)**

**Location:** Collinsville, IL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club

**Website:** <http://winterfest.slsrc.org>

### **Midwest Division News and Photos Wanted!**

If you have news and photos about events or activities from the Midwest Division, email them to Director Rod Blocksome K0DAS at [rod.blocksome@gmail.com](mailto:rod.blocksome@gmail.com).

Thanks and 73, Rod, K0DAS



## Midwest Division Special Event Stations

### 11/03/2018 | Massing of Colors

**Nov 3, 1330Z-2359Z, W0AK**, Des Moines, IA. Des Moines Radio Amateurs Association. 146.610 28.450 21.375 14.260. QSL. DMRAA, P.O. Box 88, Des Moines, IA 50301.

[www.moww.org](http://www.moww.org) or [www.dmraa.com](http://www.dmraa.com)

### 11/10/2018 | 100th Anniversary of the First Tarzan Movie

**Nov 10-Nov 11, 1400Z-0559Z, W0T**, Jefferson City, MO. Mid-MO Amateur Radio Club. 14.200 14.090 3.750 3.577. QSL. Brian Tordoff, KD0GRS, 719 Kaylyn Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109. QSL card will be sent only upon receipt of a properly filled-out QSL card and a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope. (SASE)

### 11/10/2018 | Honoring Veterans for Veterans Day

**Nov 10, 1500Z-2200Z, W0FSB**, Waterloo, IA. Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club. 21.240 14.240 7.240. Certificate & QSL. Five Sullivan Brothers ARC, 3186 Brandon Diagonal Blvd, Brandon, IA 52210. For QSL card: Send card and #10 SASE; For Certificate & QSL: Send QSL, address label and 3 Forever stamps; For eQSL & Certificate: Send eQSL, then an email to [w0fsb@outlook.com](mailto:w0fsb@outlook.com), requesting a .jpg file of the certificate that you can print yourself. [www.grz.com/db/w0fsb](http://www.grz.com/db/w0fsb)

### 02/16/2019 | 15th Annual "Freeze Your Keys" Winter Operating Event

**Feb 16, 1400Z-2200Z, W0EBB**, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP ARC. CW: 14.058 7.035 SSB: 14.325 7.240; If bands are open, 30, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters - please look for us. QSL. Gary Auchard, W0EBB, 34058 167th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048. [w0ebb@juno.com](mailto:w0ebb@juno.com)

## ARRL Midwest Division Leadership



**Director: Rod Blocksome K0DAS**

[k0das@arrl.org](mailto:k0das@arrl.org) 319-393-8022

**Vice Director: Art Zygielbaum K0AIZ**

[k0aiz@arrl.org](mailto:k0aiz@arrl.org) 402-421-0839

**Iowa Section Manager:** Bob McCaffrey, K0CY

**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)

**Emergency Communications Advisory Committee:** Reynolds Davis, K0GND (NE)

**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, Brian Short KC0BS, 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):** Reynolds Davis K0GND, Joe Eisenberg K0NEB, Allen Harpham WD0DXD, and Todd LeMense KK0DX.

**Midwest Division Webmaster:** Steve Schmitz W0SJS email: [w0sjs@arrl.net](mailto:w0sjs@arrl.net)

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