

THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Communicator

December 2024-January 2025

Pico Balloon Breaks 5 Month Silence

(ARnewsline 11/1/24) Many months after it marked its first anniversary of orbiting the Earth, the WB6RER Pico Balloon was spotted over the Antarctic. Germany's Antarctic station Neumayer III, DPØGVN/1 provided the good news following a period of concern when the balloon appeared to have gone silent for five months. The October 15th spot by the Antarctic scientific research station showed that the balloon was flying at an altitude of 45,735 feet, with its solar panel measuring 3.88 volts.

Weighing 11 grams, the hydrogen-gas-filled balloon was launched in May of 2023 from Golden Valley, Arizona by the Hualapai Amateur Radio Club. One of its greatest challenges during its year in orbit has been to overcome damage to its 20m dipole antenna.

<https://www.arnewline.org/>

Chinese/Russian Student Cubesat Active

(ARnewsline 11/22/24) The collaborative efforts of Chinese and Russian university students have helped put a CubeSat known as ASRTU-1 into space. Its 2-metre FM transponder recently became active, with an uplink of 145.850 MHz requiring a CTCSS tone of 67 Hz. The 12U satellite, weighing 15.7 kg, also has SSDV cameras and a telemetry system aboard.

According to a report on ChinaDaily.com, the creation of the satellite was undertaken to encourage cultural exchanges while tapping into the higher-education resources of both nations. The educational and ham radio microsatellite was launched on Nov. 4th on board a Soyuz rocket - a moment eagerly awaited by the students who assisted with the work at the Harbin Institute of Technology in China.

The microsatellite's camera system has a UHF SSDV downlink for low resolution images on 436.210 MHz. There is also a high-speed downlink for high-resolution images on 10460 MHz.

Third Broadcast Tower Collapses in US

(ARnewsline 11/8/24) The tower of Missouri AM radio station KRMO, 990 kHz, collapsed on the 24th of October after one of its guy wires snapped, according to industry media reports. The incident marked the third destruction of a US broadcast tower in October. Local media reports said that one of the co-owners, Dewayne Gandy of Eagle Broadcasting, witnessed the collapse as he was mowing nearby. The tower was 75 years old and maintenance work had recently been performed. While the owners make plans to restore a tower to the site, the station is transmitting via sharing access on the KSWM-AM 940 kHz tower in Aurora, Missouri. Earlier in

October, a broadcast tower collapsed in Houston, Texas, after a helicopter crashed into it, leaving four dead. In Albuquerque, New Mexico, station KKOB-AM was knocked off the air after its tower was destroyed by the impact of a hot-air balloon. The three passengers were reported safe after that incident.

Changes in ARRL VEC Program

(ARnewsline 11/22/24) Some changes are coming to the ARRL's VEC program that will affect exam teams in the US. According to an ARRL representative, the VEC department is phasing out the supply of field-stocked printed exams and encouraging VEs to download and print out their own from online sources such as Exam Tools. The ARRL will continue to supply other exam-related forms such as the FCC Form 605 or the CSCE and session reports. The ARRL is also encouraging VE teams to explore electronic, on-line testing whether in person or remotely.

For more information, check with your VEC contact, listed at the ARRL webpage.

<https://www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners>

Book Review:

Joe Carr's Loop Antenna Handbook

By Joe Carr, ©1999

I ran across this 140 page notebook sized paperback as a poor quality digital bootleg. As I started to read it I found it so good that I wanted a hardcopy. I found copies on Amazon and ebay, but new copies were listed at over \$150 and used ones over \$60! A bit steep for a \$20 book. Google pointed me to Universal Radio, the original publisher, which still has copies at a discounted \$15! Even with shipping it's still a bargain for the information.

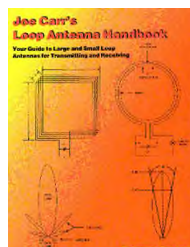
Joe Carr authored a lot of books over the years and he clearly presents a lot of information in a way that makes sense. He covers the difference between large and small loops and why they receive 90 degrees apart. And why a magnetic loop is called a magnetic loop. It continues on with sensible theory and practical construction hints and projects. It filled in a lot of gaps in my knowledge. I now consider this a "must read". (Universal Radio has closed but still has an active website and some product for sale, some with discounts.

<https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/books/0016.html>

<https://dxing.com/>

<https://archive.org/details/joecarrsloopante00unse>

(If you are registered, you can check this copy out an hour at a time and read it onscreen.)



2024 PAID MEMBERSHIP

- AGØLSteve Loyd [E]
- AIØN..... Chuck Engberg* [E]
- KBØFSI.....Pat McCollum [T]
- KBØLF Fred Eriksen [E]
- KBØOGO..... Roger Behrns* [E]
- KCØHYD John Titsworth [G]
- KCØHYEShirley Titsworth [T]
- KEØTR..... Paul Stanek [A]
- KEØPFQ Justin Fader [T]
- KEØXQBill McCollum [E]
- KFØRMZ.. Stanley Winterstien [T]#
- KGØKR..... Beth Engberg* [E]
- KIØPYKevin Faris [E]
- N5SEZ..... Ray McNally[E]
- NØPEU Shawn Djernes [E]
- N8VCL.....Scott Schreiber [E]
- WØDBWDerek Winterstien [G]
- WBØWTFMitch Green [G]
- WØJRNJim Nelson [E]
- WJØZ Del Keene [E]

**Charter Members #New Ham*

Note: Thanks to all who have paid their dues and those who have given additional donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please let me know of any corrections.



Meetings are 8am the last Saturday of most months at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth.

Tuesday night get-togethers at Plattsmouth Burger King at 6 PM or so.

PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
KBØSMX

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Repeaters:

443.45⁺ is located in downtown Omaha
443.225⁺ is located in Murray.
147.48 Simplex is also in Murray.

Web Site

www.kb0smx.com

Maintained by Derek (WØDBW)

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MINUTES of the MEETING

The October Meeting was held at Mom's Café on Saturday, October 26, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President John Titsworth at 8:38 am.

Those in attendance were Kevin (KIØPY), John (KCØHYD), Shirley (KCØHYE), Jim (WØJRN), Derek (WØDBW), Gary (WØCFC), John (WR5I), Scott (N8VCL), Ryan (KFØGVX), and Justin (KEØPFQ).

The Minutes of the September meeting were approved on a motion by Jim and seconded by Kevin.

The Treasurer's report showed no changes from last month. This leaves \$492.55 in the General Fund and \$315 in the Repeater Fund for a total of \$807.55. The report was accepted on a motion by Shirley and second by Gary.

Scott wants to visit with Jim and the Cass County EMA. There was no objection.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 on a motion by Scott and seconded by Gary.



PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Name		Call Sign		Class	
Address		City		State	
				Zip	
E-Mail			Phone #		
Spouse Name			Call Sign		Class
Membership Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additional donations are gratefully accepted. ● New Hams are free during the year they receive their first license. ● Please give this form and dues to the club treasurer or any club officer. 		Donation for: <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater fund <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> General		Amount: <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer my donation to be anonymous.
<input type="checkbox"/> Primary(\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> New Ham					
Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s?					

Meeting Calendar

8am, Sat November 30 at Mom's Café.

(No meeting in December)

(Tentative: Annual Dinner Sunday January 26, 2025 5 pm, Location TBD)