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Knights Amateur Radio Society

KARS Report

The Prez Says

On July 9, 2026, our house was hit by lightning for the second time in eight years. The lightning took off the static ball and the first six to eight inches of my Hustler 6BTV vertical antenna, which was grounded. It traveled through the coax to my MFJ 4605, feedthrough panel for my window, through the jumper to my Astron SS-50M Power Supply, which it fried, into my Kenwood TS-890S <sob>. The two inline fuses of the TS-890S blew, and after replacing, the rig still will not turn on. My peripherals were also affected, including my mic, and headphones. The AC outlet that held my equipment was burnt, as was my Ameritron AL-811 amp. None of my equipment was grounded. I did not have ARRL insurance. Sad me.

I am now using my TS-570(S)(G), which, like the 890, is also 100 watts, but has nowhere near the cool factor as the 890. I am still in mourning.

When you called CQ for an hour before realizing that you were transmitting into your dummy load.

Columbus Day Special Event Station

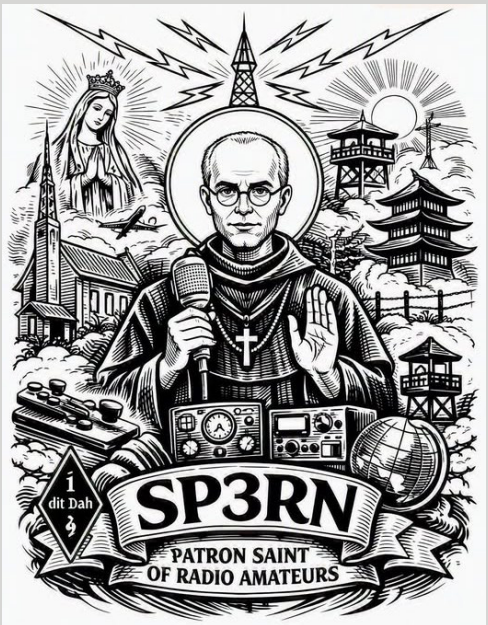
Over the Columbus Day weekend we had a 3 day special event station promoting the New Jersey Knights of Columbus Amateur Radio Club (NJKCARC) and the Knights Amateur Radio Society. We used the call signs NJ2KC and KC2US. We had stations participate from New Jersey, Texas and Minnesota and we got 262 contacts logged in. As of yesterday we received 3 QSL cards in the mail and are expecting many more. We used a number of bands and used SSB and FT8 for our event. Below is the breakdown:

Father Nick in Dallas - SSB - 10
Tom in New Jersey - SSB - 22
Greg (new member) in New Jersey - USB - 2
Jim in New Jersey - SSB - 53
Scott in Duluth MN - FT8 - 173
Joe in Duluth MN - SSB - 2

Member Spotlights

N0VYU Scott Ahlgren

Scott lives in Duluth MN just 2 blocks from the shore of Lake Superior. About 3 years ago he went in search of other hams that were also Knights and after finding everything from bible studies to the guys with the Kingdom Hall he stumbled on to the "St. Max Net". A good number of the guys checking in were Knights. After checking in 2 or 3 times he got a call from Net Control who had been doing it for 26 years and was told he was on hospice and that Scott need to take over the net. 3 years later Scott still does the 20 meter net and will continue to do so. 14.341 at 22:00 UTC on Sundays. Please stop in and say Hi!!!



St. Max Net - Sundays 22:00 UTC
14.341 USB

What's new

Icom has released pre-release information for the new IC-7110, an HF/VHF/UHF all mode transceiver featuring a 4.3-inch color touchscreen, real-time spectrum scope, and comprehensive D-STAR functionality.

New radio for Tom?

One of the great things about our hobby is getting to know people over the years. One of the things I've picked up on is that Tom seems to like Kenwood radios. I've never owned one so I don't understand the attraction. He also likes to spend extended hours in his shack/office working on things for 2 clubs and not to mention the special event stations. This seems like the rig for him!!! If I designed it I would have figured out how to add a urinal. Isn't technology great?

Secretary Needed

We are sorry to see Joe step down from the Secretary position with the Knights Amateur Society. He will be missed. He is relocating. We are in need of a somewhat organized person to fill his shoes.

We are always looking for new members

Find us on Facebook or visit our website "KC2US.org". We are Catholic men and members of the Knights of Columbus who also share an interest in Amateur Radio.

Weekly Nets

In our club zoom meeting last night we talked about doing our own nets when and wherever we find a good opportunity. Remember to announce KC2US every 10 minutes and your personal call once every hour. Have fun and send Tom the log.

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Signing up new members

We now have an account set up with "Stripe" which is a way new members can pay their dues online instead of writing and mailing a check to the treasurer in Duluth MN. It will be incorporated into the application for membership form if it already isn't.

We also set up an account with "Zeffy" which is an APP for people to make contributions to our club. It will generate receipts for contributions as people are giving to a non-profit and can submit the receipts for their taxes. This should be up and running in the near future.

Just for fun

Fr. Nicks trip to Huntsville Hamfest

Although there were about 225 advance registrants, including myself, the influx of on-site registrants with kiddos in tow (kids under 12 were free - $15 fee for others) topped that many times over. Best guess, well over a thousand showed up, and that only applies to what I could see. I was not in for the Friday ARRL annual big "hierarchy" meeting and banquet function.

There were around 100 formal exhibits on the floor, and a flea market of over 200 exhibitors. Forums topped 50 presentations of all kinds, of which I attended five, including Youth and "Next Generation" recruitment, the latter includes older folks and reverts coming back to the fold, so to speak. Also an advanced propagation seminar, Morse code learning strategies, and a big YouTube presenters group. The chief honcho for that just happens to be my next door neighbor, Frank Lappin KG5AHJ of "Tank Radio". When he first saw me he almost freaked - "What are you doing here?!" And I simply explained that as a returning ham I needed to come WAY BACK UP on the hobby learning curve. Oh, yea! Need lots of Elmers. Frank's cool, a little strange, but that's OK. There was also a long "ARRL Shopping List" of all kinds of printed materials, probably 60 or so publications, and miscellaneous items.

One interesting booth featured a Knight and his author wife, Donna Snow King, whose books include, Down at the "No Gotty". Back cover stuff included, "Where else but in Texas can rodeos and [amateur] radios come together to save a small Town?" He's Ballard, W0MOH, and she's W5SML. Got a signed copy of the book, and I gave them a priestly blessing, right on the spot!

Very exiting to me is to know the ARRL runs a summer Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, The ARRL provides a $5,000 travel scholarship for successful and qualified applicants (who don't have to be hams) to attend the 4-day Professional Development module. TI elective sessions include Space Comms, Remote Sensors, and others. This to me is a huge deal. We really need to get folks on board with the ARRL. No organization is perfect, but these folks have done so much for our special "calling" for over a 100 years.

I could go on, but St. MAX net time is almost upon us. Edit, of course, as you see fit, and reach out for questions or comments. Hear you on the air shortly (if the impeding lightning strikes out there in the DFW area don't send me scurrying back for Electro-magnetic cover}.

God bless and 73,

Fr. Nick N3CHE